Hafa Adai!
Happy Liberation Day
Saipan Tribune
$1
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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CNMI's 2022 PWS is OK'd

The CNMI's 2022 Prevailing Wage Study report for the CW-1 visa program has been approved, according to an announcement Friday by the Office of the Governor.

The news release stated that Brandt Carter, the acting deputy administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification, informed the CNMI in a letter dated June 30, 2022, of the approval of the CNMI's 2022 Prevailing Wage Study report, which will set the wages scales that will apply to the employment of foreign workers—more commonly known

See PWS on Page 4

For now, wary US treads water with transformed COVID-19

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

The fast-changing coronavirus has kicked off summer in the U.S. with lots of infections but relatively few deaths compared to its prior incarnations.

COVID-19 is still killing hundreds of Americans each day, but is not nearly as dangerous as it was last fall and winter.

"It's going to be a good summer and we deserve this

See COVID-19 on Page 4

LibDay Parade gets 3 grand marshals

McGinnis

Farrell

Sablan

Estanislao Tudela "Stanley" McGinnis, Don A. Farrell, and Michael S. "Mike" Sablan have each been named grand marshal for today's Liberation Day parade on Saipan, one for each anniversary of Liberation

» McGinnis, Farrell, Sablan to lead today's parade

Day since the parade was last held in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In commemorating the 74th, 75th, and 76th anniversaries of the celebration, the 2022 Liberation Day Com-

See LIBDAY on Page 4

60-plus booths at 5-night LibDay festivities

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
CORRESPONDENT

This year's Liberation Day festivities in the CNMI kicked off last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church, marking the start of the five-night celebration that culminates in today's pa-

See BOOTHS on Page 4

An ROTC color guard performs flag duties during the opening ceremony for the Liberation Day Festival last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base in Kristo Rai. CHRYSTAL MARINO

Sagana to soon head back to the CNMI. PAGE 3
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HEALTH & WELLNESS
Government advisers say it's time to tweak booster doses to match the most recent variants.
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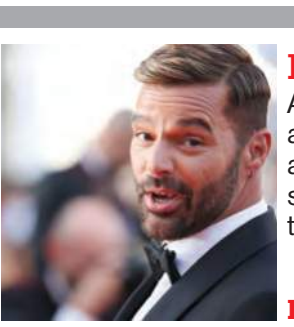

LIFE & STYLE
A judge has issued a restraining order against Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin, police said.
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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

TSLF supports LibDay festivities with $10K donation

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated $10,000 to the Saipan Mayor's Office to support the Fourth of July activities on the island.

The festivities include the return of the traditional parade that will be held this morning, while a 45-minute firework display in the evening will cap the annual celebration. This will be the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic struck that the CNMI will have the parade, which features various marching units and float display from both private and public organizations.

"We are back. We bring back the island spirit that each of us takes pride as islanders living on this beautiful island. The Fourth of July festivities will lift the spirits of our residents and visitors," Saipan Mayor David Apatang said.

Fifty groups are participating in the parade, including 21 entries in the float category. Cash prizes await the Top 6 in the competition float category, with the first-place winner taking home $5,000 and $4,000, $3,000, $2,000, $1,000, and $500 going to the second to sixth finishers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor's Office field operations director Joann Aquino, center, receives the ceremonial check donation for the Liberation Day festivities from Tan Holdings Corp. executive Judy Mendieta, right, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation administrative officer Rina Robles during a turnover ceremony last Thursday in Garapan.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation congratulates the Saipan Mayor's Office and this year's Liberation Day Committee for bringing back the highly anticipated parade. We are also pleased to join the community in remembering a very important part in our history. Happy Liberation Day," Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said.

The Liberation Day Parade along Beach Road will start at 10am from National Office Supply to the Garapan Fishing Base. ***(PR)***

Happy Liberation Day!

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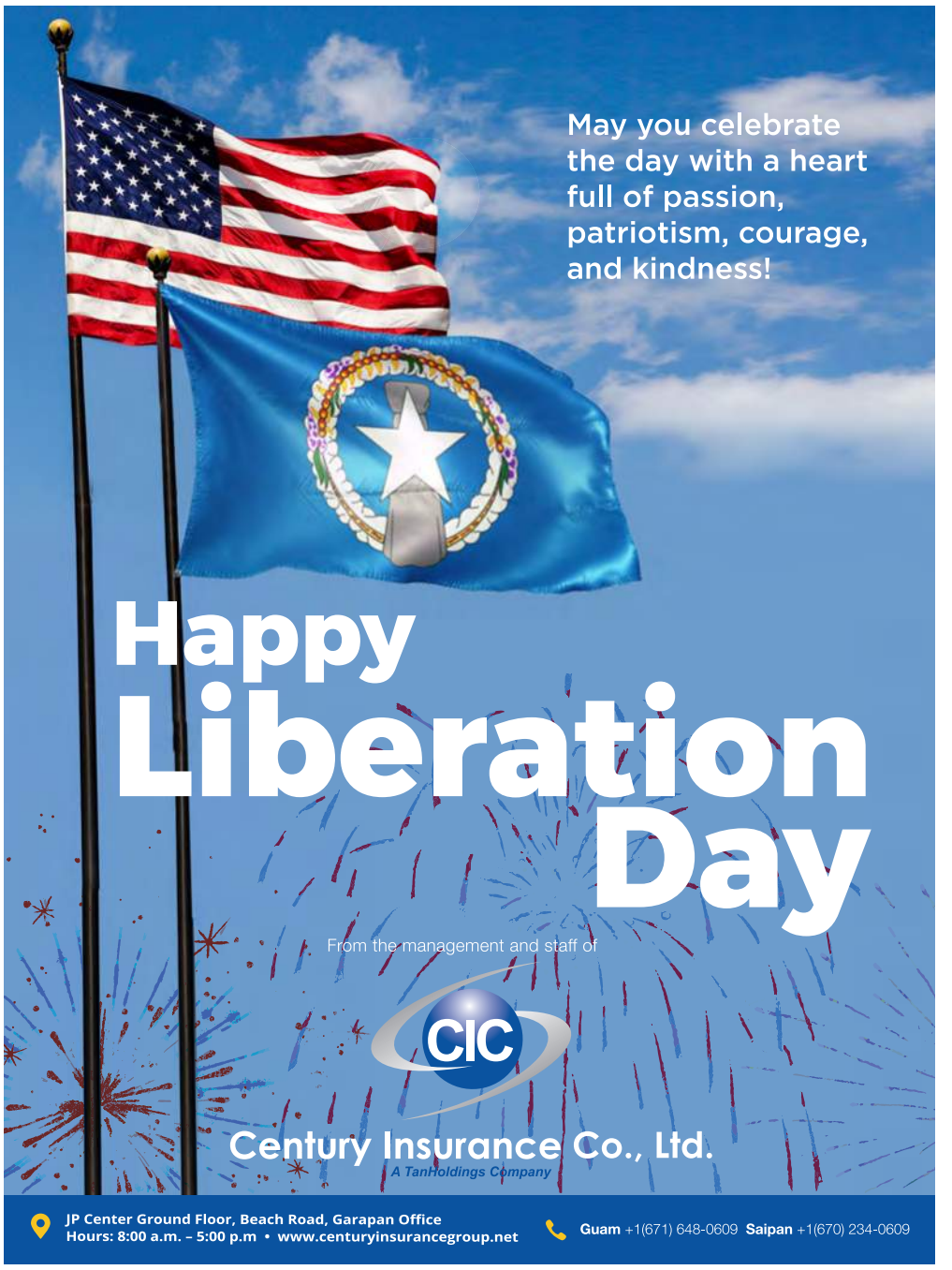
May you celebrate the day with a heart full of passion, patriotism, courage, and kindness!
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Sagana to soon head back to NMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Travel arrangement have now been made for a man who is facing federal charges in the CNMI but had fled to Wisconsin where he was arrested.

During a status conference for Bonifacio "Boni" Sagana last Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was informed that travel arrangements were being made for Sagana to return to Saipan where he will face federal charges for allegedly arranging for others to obtain fake CNMI driver's licenses.

According to the U.S. Marshals Service, Sagana is set to arrive on Saipan on July 26 or 28.

Manglona said she will issue an order regarding Sagana's appearance before scheduling an arraignment for Aug. 3, at 9am.

During last Wednesday's hearing, court-appointed attorney Richard Miller appeared to represent Sagana while assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe represented the federal government.

Sagana, who is currently in Wisconsin and out of custody, appeared via videoconference and was represented by assistant federal defender Krista Halla-Valdes who also appeared via videoconference.

Last week, the U.S. District Court for the NMI granted Sagana's request for travel subsidy.

According to court documents, the district court issued an arrest warrant for Sagana following a grand jury indictment back on Jan. 31 on the charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver's license.

However, Sagana fled the CNMI before he could be arrested and was arrested on May 16 in Wisconsin.

Sagana was allegedly identified by other defendants facing the same charges as the person who arranged for them to fraudulently obtain a CNMI driver's license using a counterfeit U.S. immigration visa number.

According to documents from the Eastern District Court of Wisconsin, Sagana, a U.S. permanent resident, appeared at an initial hearing on May 16, before Judge James R. Sickel.

The charge against Sagana is punishable by up to a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

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COVID-19

From Page 1

break," said Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle.

With more Americans shielded from severe illness through vaccination and infection, COVID-19 has transformed—for now at least—into an unpleasant, inconvenient nuisance for many.

"It feels cautiously good right now," said Dr. Dan Kaul, an infectious diseases specialist at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. "For the first time that I can remember, pretty much since it started, we don't have any (COVID-19) patients in the ICU."

As the nation marks July Fourth, the average number of daily deaths from COVID-19 in the United States is hovering around 360. Last year, during a similar summer lull, it was around 228 in early July. That remains the lowest threshold in U.S. daily deaths since March 2020, when the virus first began its U.S. spread.

But there were far fewer reported cases at this time last year—fewer than 20,000 a day. Now, it's about 109,000—and likely an undercount as home tests aren't routinely reported.

Today, in the third year of the pandemic, it's easy to feel confused by the mixed picture: Repeat infections are increasingly likely, and a sizeable share of those infected will face the lingering symptoms of long COVID-19.

Yet, the stark danger of death has diminished for many people.

PWS

From Page 1

as CW-1 workers—in the CNMI beginning July 1, 2022.

"My office extends its appreciation and thanks to Secretary Walsh, and his team for their guidance and diligence as they review and approve our 2022 PWS report. This report will greatly assist our local businesses as we work to recover our economy," stated Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in Friday's announcement.

A total of 847 Standard Occupational Classification, or SOC, Detailed Titles are found in the U.S. economy "with wage values for the CW-1 visa program"—496 Detailed Titles were captured by the CNMI 2022 PWS. The U.S. Department of Labor reviewed and approved 409 for use in the 2022 PWS wage data, "438 occupations will use prevailing wages based on Guam's Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics or the OEWS survey-adjusted wage," according to the letter from the OFLC acting deputy administrator.

"I am grateful for all the efforts in ensuring the timely completion of this important report, most especially our local business partners and public sector agencies who took the extra effort and time in completing the online survey," said CNMI Commerce Secretary Edward Deleon Guerrero. "I extend my heartfelt thanks to the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification team for their continued support and the guidance they provide to our CNMI PWS team to ensure that this report meets all the statistical standards contained in the CW-1 Interim Final Rule at 20 CFR 55.410(e)."

The 2022 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study is used to produce the CNMI hourly wage statistics for 2022. All private businesses, public agencies, and organizations, whether with employees or no employees in the CNMI, were urged to participate in the 2022 PWS survey. The survey data collection period began last March 1, 2022, and ended on March 15, 2022. The prevailing wages based on the survey will remain valid for up to one year.

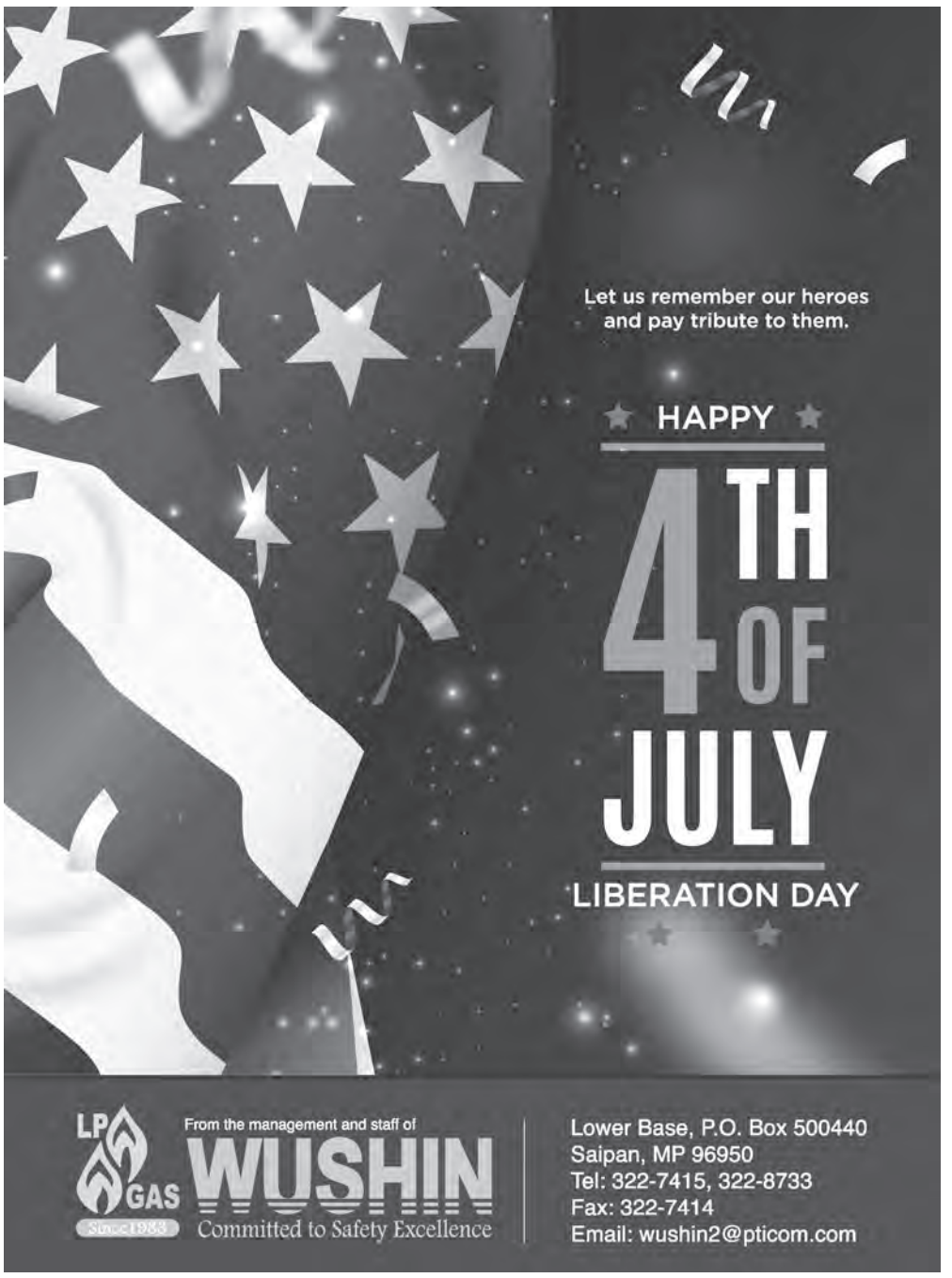
The 2018 NMI US Workforce Act requires the CNMI to publish a prevailing wage report annually for CW-1 visa determination and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The 2022 PWS CW-1 Wage Table report can be accessed on the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification website at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/.

The 2022 PWS Report can be accessed on the CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division website at https://ver1.cnmicommerce.com/divisions/central-statistics/report-hub/.

Questions and inquiries regarding the prevailing wage report should be directed to the Central Statistics Division at telephone number (670)664-3045/3023 or email address cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp.

For all other inquiries not related to the survey or the reports, direct them to the CNMI Department of Labor. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***



LIBDAY

From Page 1

mittee and I are pleased to announce Stanley, Don, and Mike, respectively, as our parade grand marshals, in recognition of their long leadership and contributions to our Marianas community," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

The Liberation Day Parade will be held today, July 4, at 10am on Beach Road from the National Office Supply to Garapan Fishing Base. Beach Road will be closed from Quartermaster Road to National Office Supply at 8am for parade participants to assemble. National Office Supply to Dama Di Noche Street will close at 9am.

Festivities kicked off with an opening ceremony last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base. Over 60 booths for food, drinks, arts and crafts, and games and live entertainment were presented from 6:30pm to 10pm nightly. Today, the grounds will open at 9am.

This year's parade will also include a number of military groups, including hometown U.S. Army Reservists with 9th Mission Support Command; U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band 5-member Ensemble from Hawaii; Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz; Guam National Guard; Indo-Pacific Command Liaison to the CNMI from Pacific Air Forces; and their respective senior leaders.

Recent Liberation Day Queens who will be honored as this year's Royal Court are 2014 Queen Pressel Jean Camacho, 2015 Queen Zolenska Marie Yaroitemal, 2016 Queen Christine Roque, 2017 Queen Peyton Reyes Gomez, 2018 Queen Brinae Jessilyn Maratita Cruz (2018), and 2019 Queen Pernalynn Janet Borja Camacho.

Stanley McGinnis

McGinnis—formerly Estanislao Tudela "Stanley" McGinnis Torres—was only 3 years old when the Americans landed on Saipan in 1944. He spent time in a cave with his parents and other family members while Japanese and American soldiers fought to the death for control of the island. After the Americans secured control of the island, he and his family were made to live in Camp Susupe with other civilians. Liberation Day is celebrated annually to mark the permanent closure on July 4, 1945, of civilian internment camps on Saipan, when indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians were allowed to fully return to their land and private lives following World War II. Torres remembers when everyone in the camp was finally allowed to permanently leave.

McGinnis attended Mt. Carmel Catholic School and was part of the first high school graduation.

He married Arlene Blas Cabrera and began his family in Oleai, where he, his brothers, father and other members of the community assisted in the building of the San Jose Church. He eventually was selected as village commissioner.

McGinnis worked for Pan American Airlines for 15 years before opening his own travel agency, Hafa Adai International Travel Agency. Fifteen years later, he was elected to the 7th Northern Marianas Legislature and began a political career that spanned 16 years.

Don Farrell

Farrell is best known for his lifelong hobby of researching and writing about the history of the Marianas. His writing career began in Guam, and he moved to Tinian in 1987, publishing the first *History of the Northern Mariana Islands* in 1991. His other books include *Tinian: A Brief History; The History of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan: A Brief History; Guam: A Brief History; Rota: A Brief History; Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands; Tinian and The Bomb;* and *Atomic Bomb Island.* He has also written numerous magazine and newspaper articles on the history of the Mariana Islands.

Farrell credits his understanding of Marianas history to 35 years of government service, including chief of staff to the speaker of the Guam Legislature, and former chief of staff to the mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. He has also been a member of the board of directors of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the CNMI Historic Preservation Review board. He holds a B.A. in Biological Science from California State College at Fullerton in 1973 and a degree in Secondary Education from California State College at San Bernardino in 1975.

Farrell is married to Carmen Muna Dela Cruz of Tinian. They have three children and eight grandchildren. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BOOTHS

From Page 1

rade on Beach Road.

The theme of this year's Liberation Day event is "Honoring Our Legacy While Riding the Waves of Change,'" and will conclude tonight with a 30-minute fireworks display at 9pm at Garapan Fishing Base.

More than 60 businesses had booths at the festival grounds, giving the event a variety and mixture of both food and merchandise stalls, as well as amusement stalls such as Kids Tattoo's Bounce the Balls and Bridge Capital's Dunking Booth. Many families, as well as individuals, could be seen enjoying the festivities.

In his welcoming remarks, Saipan Mayor David Apatang recalled that the last time the CNMI had a grand Liberation Day celebration was in 2019, and the the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which means the CNMI has not had a Liberation Day celebration in two years.

"Our way of life dramatically changed overnight. We made it through the most harrowing moments of the pandemic, because we stayed together and had each other's back. For two long years, we followed the 3 W's. It was a very difficult time for many of us, as we had to put off many family and public social gatherings. But today, that has changed. We are back, and thank God for that," he said. "Starting this evening we can say that we are returning to our pre-pandemic way of life. We are not out of the woods yet, so we must be responsible in protecting everyone around us.

"We've travelled a long way to get here. Let us enjoy this very important occasion. We should honor and remember those who perished in the battle of Saipan, to whom we dedicate this celebration in their memory," Apatang added.

USDOL lien on IPI's Flame Tree Terraces to be released

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Labor has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its parent company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., have satisfied their monetary obligation under the court's first amended consent judgment and is acknowledging the release of the lien on IPI's Flame Tree Terraces that was recorded in USDOL's favor.

According to the acknowledgment of satisfaction of judgment jointly signed by USDOL lawyer Charles Song and IPI lawyer Kevin Abikoff, the judgment amount of over $3.3 million in the consent judgment and first amended consent judgment has been fully paid by IPI, with the final payment transmitted on Feb. 8, 2022.

"The parties acknowledged that IPI has made full payment of the judgment amount secured by the lien in favor of plaintiff against the Flame Tree Terrace," the motion stated.

Because full and complete satisfaction of the court's monetary judgment has been acknowledged, the clerk of the court has been authorized and directed to make an entry of the full and complete satisfaction on the docket of the judgment, releasing USDOL's lien on IPI's Flame Tree Terraces.

"Plaintiff acknowledges that the lien established by the consent judgment, recorded on March 25, 2021, as amended by the first amendment to consent judgment recorded on March 30, 2021, will be released through the recording of this acknowledgement of satisfaction of judgment with the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan," the motion said.

The clerk of court has yet to make an entry of full and complete satisfaction.

According to court documents, back on April 11, 2019, the court entered a consent judgment through which IPIH and IPI agreed to the entry of a judgment to be paid to USDOL in the total amount of $3,360,000, comprising of back wages, liquidated damages, and civil monetary penalties, among other things.

On March 23, 2021, the court entered a first amendment to the consent judgment, through which the parties agreed to a modified payment schedule under which IPI would pay $1,478,430.08—the remaining amount due under the judgment—and agreed that, as security for IPI's monetary liability of $1,478,430.08, IPI would to record a lien in favor of plaintiff against the leasehold parcels of property known as the Flame Tree Terrace.

On Aug. 12, 2021, the court entered an amendment to the payment plan under the first amended consent judgment, modifying the payment plan under which IPI would make payment of the judgment, but not otherwise amending the terms of the first amended consent judgment, including as regards the security interest in Flame Tree Terrace.

Although IPI has fully paid of the first amended consent judgment, USDOL and IPI are currently awaiting the court's approval of their second amendment to the consent judgment that would require IPI to pay over $2 million because IPI was found in contempt, again, of the court's previous injunction in favor of USDOL in its case against IPI over Fair Labor Standards Act violations.

Hofschneider authorizes admin leave for non-critical employees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Then-acting governor Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said over the weekend that Liberation Day every year is an opportunity to reflect upon the challenges and changes that the people in the CNMI have collectively endured and overcome.

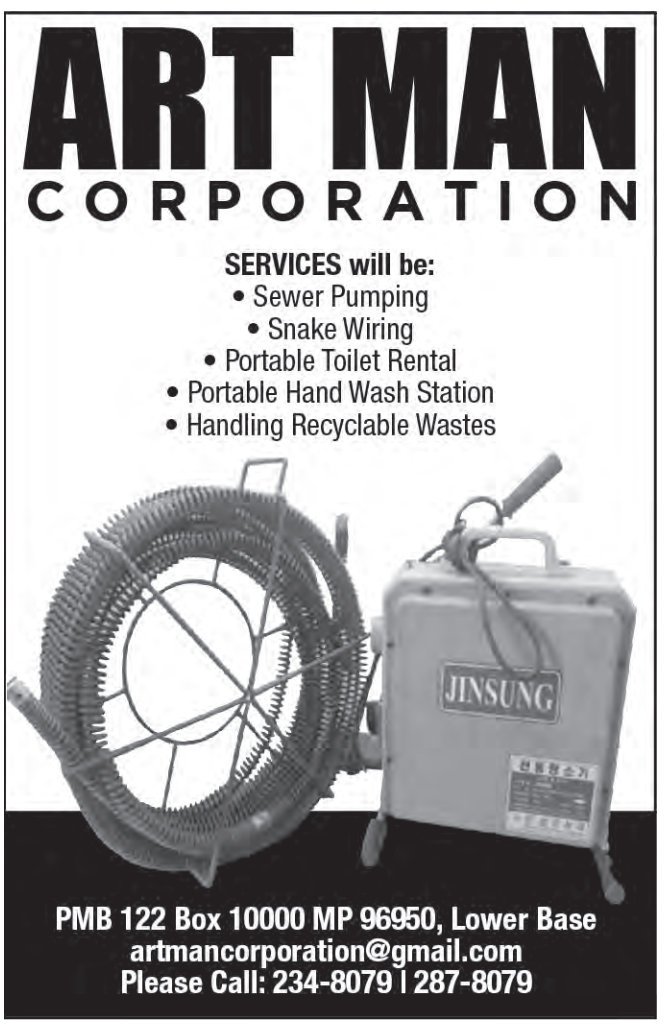
Hofschneider

In a memorandum Friday, Hofschneider authorized non-critical employees of the CNMI's departments and agencies to take an administrative leave that day starting at 12pm in honor and celebration of the Commonwealth's Liberation Day festivities.

"From the historic closure of Camp Susupe to where we are today as a Commonwealth, our journey of freedom and resilience is one that underscores the significant ability of the people of the Marianas in recovering from adversity and working together for the benefit of everyone who calls these islands home," he said.

He said that, as the CNMI celebrates 76 years of freedom, it is important to remember and honor those who devoted their lives to the protection of freedoms, including those who defended the Marianas in World War II, and those who continue to defend the CNMI today.

"This Liberation Day, let us celebrate history, freedom, and hope while cherishing time with family, friends, and loved ones. Happy Liberation Day, CNMI!" Hofschneider said.



HAPPY
4TH OF
JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
In recognition of the holiday, our Oleai store will be closed on Monday, July 4th. Regular business hours will resume the following day.
Our Kada Dia Payment Center will remain open from 11 am to 3:30 pm for payments.
As always, we are ready to assist you 24/7 via online chat at ite.net or over the phone at (670) 682-4ITE [4483].
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New hours for CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy

Effective July 1, 2022, the Outpatient Pharmacy at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will operate during the following hours:

- Monday–Friday: 8am – 5:30pm
- Weekends and holidays: 8am – 4:30pm

The mission of the CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy is to ensure medical compliance and improve patient outcomes by offering the best services at affordable prices for outpatient pharmaceutical products and services, as well as provide support to inpatient, outpatient, and public health clinical programs to improve the overall health of our patients.

The CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy dispenses prescription drugs for outpatient use and offers over-the-counter drugs and other health and hygiene products.

For more information about the CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy, call (670) 236-8798 or visit www.chcc.health/pharmacy.php. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MVA office closure and relocation

Due to office relocation, the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Saipan remain closed to walk-in customers through Wednesday, July 13, 2022. Normal office hours will resume on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at the new office location on the first floor of Gold Beach Hotel on Beach Road in Garapan. For assistance, contact the office at info@mymarianas.com or 1 (670) 664-3200. ***(PR)***

CNMI Youth Congress session on July 8

This is to inform the public that the 18th CNMI Youth Congress will convene its First Day, 2nd Special Session on Friday, July 8, 2022, at 11am in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill. ***(PR)***

IT&E's Oleai, Rota, and Tinian stores closed today

In observance of Independence Day, IT&E's Oleai, Rota, and Tinian stores will be closed today, July 4. Regular store hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5.

IT&E's Kada Dia Payment Center will remain open today, July 4 from 11am to 3:30pm for payments.

For all other inquiries, you can call IT&E's 24/7 Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4483 or chat with a live representative at https://store.ite.net/live-support/. ***(PR)***

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-034

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER GENERATION PLANT SYSTEMS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant Systems on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-034, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant Systems on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 28, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 8, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFP22-OPD-422000105

"WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ASSESSMENTS- GARAPAN BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT"

July 1, 2022

This Addendum No. 1 is issued to re-schedule the bid submission and opening date for the above referenced Invitation to Bid.

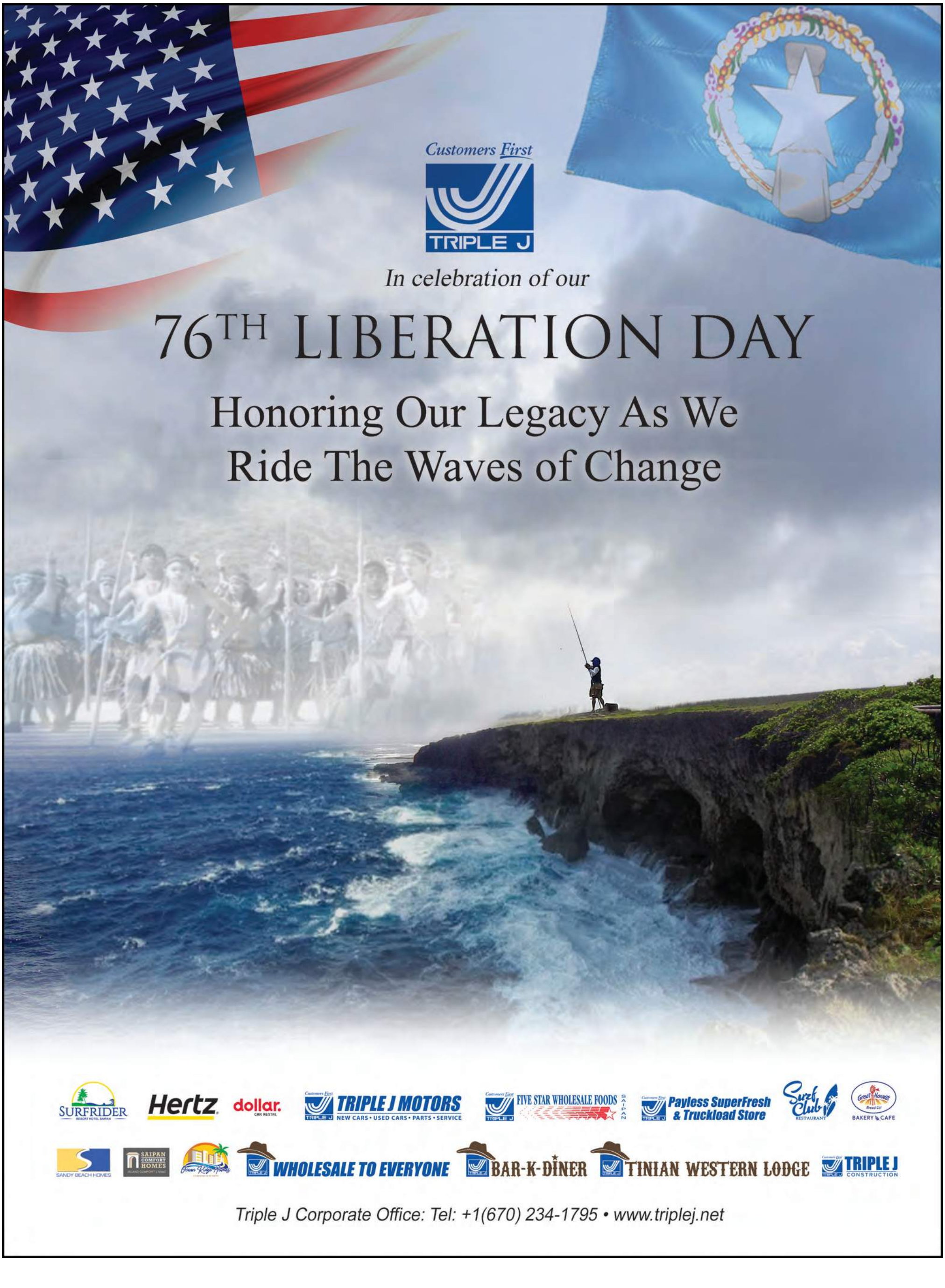
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement Services located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan **09:00 a.m., ChST, August 5, 2022.**

All other requirements stated in the Invitation to Bid Shall remain the same.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70.30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT SERVICES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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The Supreme Court just made it harder to save the planet

At a moment when the world should be racing to prevent the worst effects of global warming, the Supreme Court just made it harder for the U.S. to cut carbon emissions from power plants quickly and cost-effectively.

In yet another ruling this session that upended norms, the court said in its 6-3 decision Thursday that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its authority in trying to develop sweeping regulations to reduce climate-warming pollutants.

To be clear, the ruling didn't remove the EPA's authority to cut carbon emissions from individual power plants, which are responsible for about a quarter of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The agency still can—and should—require that power plants install equipment that can ratchet down pollution. But the decision limits the EPA's ability to enact more far-reaching and creative regulatory programs affecting the power sector, such as a nationwide carbon cap-and-trade system similar to California's that some power industry and business groups have supported as more flexible compliance models.

With the stakes so high, it's devastating that the EPA will lose valuable regulatory tools to help slow climate change. The ruling also foreshadows more fights and lawsuits from industry groups attempting to prevent federal agencies from enacting big, important regulations to address evolving problems. The U.S. has a long history of empowering agencies to develop regulations for cleaner air and water, safer workplaces and consumer protections from dangerous products, and the ruling could encourage more challenges to regulatory agencies' authority.

The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., said Congress didn't give the EPA the power to develop regulations that could shift the power sector from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Such major decisions and transformational programs should come with clear direction from Congress, he argued.

But in a dissent signed by the court's three liberal judges, Justice Elena Kagan wrote that the majority was ignoring Congress' intent when lawmakers passed the Clean Air Act in the 1970s—which was to empower the experts to come up with regulatory systems that can evolve over time to reduce emissions in the most cost-efficient, protective way possible. Instead, she argued, the court blocked regulators from carrying out their mandate.

"Whatever else this Court may know about, it does not have a clue about how to address climate change," Kagan wrote. "And let's say the obvious: The stakes here are high. Yet the Court today prevents congressionally authorized agency action to curb power plants' carbon dioxide emissions. The Court appoints itself—instead of Congress or the expert agency—the decisionmaker on climate policy. I cannot think of many things more frightening."

She's right. The stakes are terrifyingly high.

See SUPREME on Next Page

Another devastating Supreme Court decision

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY
Los Angeles Times

Erwin Chemerinsky is dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law and a contributing writer to Opinion. He is the author, most recently, of Presumed Guilty: How the Supreme Court Empowered the Police and Subverted Civil Rights.

The Supreme Court's 6-3 decision on Thursday to severely limit the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to combat greenhouse gas emissions is devastating at a time when climate change endangers the planet.

The decision also poses a broad and serious threat to the power of federal agencies to adopt regulations to protect public health and safety in other fields. By this ruling, the court's conservatives have opened the door to challenges to countless regulations that apply to other industries.

The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, applied the "major questions doctrine" (a legal analysis used to determine if a federal agency has exceeded its authority) in a way that would strike down any regulation that has significant effects on the economy unless the government agency can "point to 'clear congressional authorization' for the power it claims." This interpretation of the doctrine would give businesses a new way to attack other sensible regulations, even if they have been in place for years.

This case, West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency, involves the authority of the EPA to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired and natural gas power plants. The Obama administration adopted an aggressive approach, known as the Clean Power Plan, to limit these emissions from coal-fired power plants, which are a major source of the pollution responsible for climate change. The Trump administration rescinded that plan and adopted its own Affordable Clean Energy Plan, which was far more permissive in allowing pollution.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the Trump administration failed to follow proper procedures in rescinding the Obama-era plan and in enacting its own approach. West Virginia and several coal companies appealed to the Supreme Court for review.

Under basic and well-established legal principles, the justices should have dismissed this case. The EPA has stated that it does not intend to revive either the Obama or the Trump plans. The Biden administration has said that it will announce its own, new approach. Given that there is no regulation to be enforced, there is no reason to have ruled on this case.

Of course, the conservative majority wasn't concerned about hewing to the basic rules of adjudicating cases. Instead, it was intent on using this case to declare that the EPA had no ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants because Congress had not been sufficiently specific in granting this power in the Clean Air Act.

It ignores the explicit statutory power of the EPA under the Clean Air Act to regulate power plants and to adopt regulations to deal with air pollution. It relies on the amorphous idea that Congress must be more specific in granting authority when there is a "major question," but the court has never defined "major question" or what is sufficiently specific authorization to meet this requirement. And the court doesn't offer any workable definitions in this case.

Instead, every industry and corporation unhappy with a regulation that might cut into its profits can now sue the government on the grounds that Congress did not provide specific authority for the rule. The court's anti-regulatory approach rejects this reality: The smooth functioning of government requires that Congress be able to delegate to agencies broad authority to deal with urgent issues—such as climate change and a pandemic—without amending the laws at every instance.

The decision reflects an aspect of the Roberts court that has not gotten as much attention as it has overturned precedents on abortion, guns and religion. This is a court that is profoundly pro-business, even in the face of clear threats to public health and safety.

At a time when the planet is in peril from greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, the conservative justices using their power to block government action will have huge long-term effects. As Justice Elena Kagan said in her dissent, "The Court appoints itself—instead of Congress or the expert agency—the decisionmaker on climate policy." Yet she notes, "Whatever else this Court may know about, it does not have a clue about how to address climate change."

The court's hubris and its decision to give businesses a way to challenge every sort of federal regulatory power will do this nation great damage.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The need to return to learning history: World War II

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

World War II isn't a textbook lesson for our Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands. As we can attest, our grandparents, great grandparents, parents, uncles, and aunts were war survivors, whether they lived on Guam, Tinian, or Saipan. World War II came to our island chain for the entire duration of the war that we had no part in starting or ending.

Our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization lived through and saw firsthand the vast destructive power that hot war between powerful nations brought to our Mariana Islands. Today, it is still important to remember that history has all kinds of lessons to teach us. So many of us know family stories of relatives suffering, dying, being tortured, or enduring extended hardship from Japanese occupational actions, actual fighting between Japan and the United States throughout the Marianas, and the subsequent American militarization of our island chain. Hundreds of our Chamorro families were permanently displaced as Guam most especially became the site of a major multi-tiered American military buildup.

But historically speaking, it was really the Atlantic where most of the American military resources went, not the Pacific

When World War II began, the American military focus wasn't the Pacific; it was in the Atlantic and Europe. Most American ships and shipping routes were based on the eastern seaboard of the United States, not the north American West Coast. When the war began in 1941 and Pearl Harbor was attacked, the U.S. Navy had relatively fewer ships assigned to the Pacific. The number of aircraft carriers were in the single digits, and many of the destroyers used in the Pacific were from World War I. During this time, Japanese zero airplanes were the most sophisticated airplanes roaming the Pacific, not American fighters.

How did the American military win in the Pacific?

Despite America not having the requisite resources in the Pacific at the onset of World War II, the U.S. was determined to quickly produce new military ships and aircraft at a clip not seen before in American history. The attitudes held by the most senior admirals who were planning and prosecuting the fight throughout the Pacific—King, Nimitz, Spruance, and Halsey come to mind—believed that the U.S. must prepare and accept the possibility of seeing massive losses of ships and men as a necessary evil to beat Japan.

Many mistakes were made by the U.S. especially during the first half of the war in the Pacific due in part to the lack of training previously offered for amphibious operations and jungle warfare. Thousands of Americans lost their lives because of incorrect predictions of tidal charts, a lack of pre-invasion naval bombardment and inadequate numbers of landing craft used during Pacific Island invasions.

Marine Corps and Army leaders were simultaneously at each other's throats because each organization wanted to conduct tactical beach landings for their own benefit. The Army wanted to take on the Japanese empire from the south while the Navy wanted to fight westward across the Central Pacific.

Our ancient home, the Mariana Islands, and its reference as Japan's Inner Empire

Our Mariana Islands chain was viewed as the "inner empire" of Japan by the U.S.

While our Chamorro family members were being mistreated, suffering, or being placed into forced labor situations by the Japanese military in Guam and receiving ever harsher treatment from increasingly anxious Japanese military personnel in 1943, American Adm. Nimitz and Adm. King concluded at the same time that invading our Mariana Islands the following year would help the U.S. defeat Japan without the need to invade the Japanese home islands.

Fleet Adm. King, a particularly circumspect man, understood the importance of working with the Army Air Corps toward this end. King quickly figured out that the newly produced B-29 Superfortress aircraft was ideal to launch the most lethal attacks against the Japanese homeland because the B-29 was the newest weapon of air warfare now on the scene that could lug 10,000 lbs worth of bombs across vast distances.

American liberation of our Chamorro people was not part of the decision-making process of America's top military decision-makers during the war

Adm. King, Adm. Nimitz, Adm. Spruance, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and the American Joint Chiefs of Staff did not plan to rescue or liberate our Chamorro people. It wasn't part of the operational plan of action.

Gen. MacArthur and Adm. Nimitz were, instead, at odds over military operational matters. Adm. Nimitz ultimately prevailed and, in partnership with Adm. King, won approval from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to invade our ancient Mariana Island homes, Palau, the Carolines, and Mindanao, with the intent of eventually moving on to China, Formosa, and Luzon and using these areas to launch final attacks against the Japanese homeland.

While this was happening, Japan's military leaders decided that Tinian would be the key location to house land-based air forces. Saipan was to be the location for a naval fleet headquarters. None of this ever fully materialized because Japan did not have the resources to properly fuel and maintain its dwindling maritime fleet.

Raymond Spruance, a soft-spoken introspective admiral, personally made the decision and approved the order of battle to first attack Saipan, then Tinian, then Guam. Spruance rationalized that taking our Mariana Islands was required for an American forward operating air and naval base because our ancient Pacific Island chain was the ideal location to then initiate follow-on attacks that would better position the United States to [eventually] defeat Japan. The people of Tinian know what happened after that.

Fast forward to today—we are now preparing for Liberation Day parties and remembrances. Let us also take a moment to think about how decisions made in the past, and perhaps in the present, by key military leaders from powerful nations close by or far away have affected our entire ancient Pacific Islander Chamorro civilization over most of the past century.

SUPREME

From Page 8

The burning of fossil fuels and other human activity have already warmed Earth by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit compared with preindustrial levels, a United Nations report warned earlier this year. Climate change has worsened wildfires, droughts, air pollution and heat waves; caused species to go extinct and trees to die en masse; swallowed up coastal habitat; reduced crop yields; increased hunger and shrunk glaciers and other crucial water supplies.

The world can still avert the worst consequences of the overheating of our planet—mass extinction and catastrophically severe droughts, floods, heat waves and sea level rise—if emissions are cut in half by 2030. But the United States, the world's biggest polluter historically, has moved far too slowly to end the nation's reliance on fossil fuels and transition to clean, renewable energy.

The Supreme Court ruling only makes the work harder. The Biden administration is currently developing a rule to cut carbon from power plants. Thursday's court decision puts new constraints on possible regulatory models, even ones that might be faster or cheaper than ordering power plants to install pollution-control technology. Still, Biden's EPA should pursue the most aggressive standards; there's simply no more time to waste.

The decision also puts the onus on Congress. Sure, Congress could pass a law clearly giving the EPA the authority to pass sweeping regulations to cut carbon. But for decades, Republican and some Democratic lawmakers have refused to act on climate change, punting the responsibility to the executive branch and the EPA. It's time for Congress to finally buck fossil fuel interests and pass a comprehensive bill to accelerate the shift from coal and gas to clean electricity and clean vehicles.

And Congress should make it abundantly clear that the EPA is empowered to adopt the regulations needed to slash greenhouse gases across industries and slow global warming.

Cassidy Hutchinson isn't a hero. The men around her are just cowards

By PAIGE MASTEN
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

In the end, the person who told us, under oath, what the president was doing as a violent mob descended on the U.S. Capitol wasn't Mark Meadows or anyone else in Donald Trump's inner circle.

It was a 25-year-old woman who had far less authority than any of them.

Cassidy Hutchinson, principal aide to former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, was the key witness in the Jan. 6 committee's surprise hearing Tuesday, delivering harrowing testimony that recounted how the president and his closest advisers knew Jan. 6 could lead to violence but did nothing to stop it.

She remembered feeling scared, frustrated, disgusted, disappointed. But, despite the weight of her testimony, Cassidy Hutchinson wasn't a hero. She was just doing her job.

Displays of true public service can easily be confused for heroism these days. People in positions of political power doing the job they swore to do—support and defend the Constitution—feels rare. It requires far more courage than it should.

People who likely know even more than Hutchinson does have chosen to eschew their public obligations, using their power and their stature to shield themselves from accountability. They've chosen silence, the easier choice, and put their own interests above all else.

Meadows, Hutchinson's former boss, has thus far defied the committee's subpoenas, an obstruction for which Congress voted to hold in him in contempt last year. Tuesday's hearing also showed video of Michael Flynn, retired military general and former U.S. national security adviser, refusing to even answer whether he thought the violence on Jan. 6 was justified, or if he believed in the peaceful transfer of power. He chose to plead the fifth instead.

And because of their betrayal, a young woman was the one who had to do the heavy lifting. They let her bear the risks alone.

Tuesday was not the first time we heard from Hutchinson, but it was the first time she provided live testimony for a televised hearing. Media reports say that the reason Tuesday's last-minute hearing came together so quietly and so quickly was due to concerns about Hutchinson's physical safety. As a result of her public testimony, Hutchinson has reportedly obtained security.

Because we already know that in Trump world, if you do the right thing, people will try to ruin your life. A number of state and local officials have testified at previous hearings that their unwillingness to cooperate with Trump's plan to hijack a legitimate election led to harassment and threats against them and their families.

At the end of Tuesday's hearing, the committee raised concerns about possible witness tampering. Many witnesses deposed by the committee have received intimidating, Mafia-like messages from Trump allies suggesting that it would be in their best interest to remain loyal to the former president.

Faced with the reality of her devastating testimony, Trump and his supporters have already begun to attack Hutchinson's credibility, with Trump claiming he hardly knows who she is "other than I heard very negative things about her" and labeling her "a Total Phony!!!" and a "third rate social climber." On Twitter, right-wingers denounced her as "Amber Heard 2.0."

At just 25, Cassidy Hutchinson isn't much older than I am. And she didn't have to testify. Like plenty of Republicans before her, she could have taken the fifth, ignored the subpoenas altogether or simply repeated "I don't recall." She could have chosen to protect the president—and maybe even herself—instead of her country.

Hutchinson isn't faultless. She still liked Trump enough to work for him. But by doing her job, she at least proved she has something that the cowardly men around her do not: integrity, and a respect for the institutions that they tried to destroy.

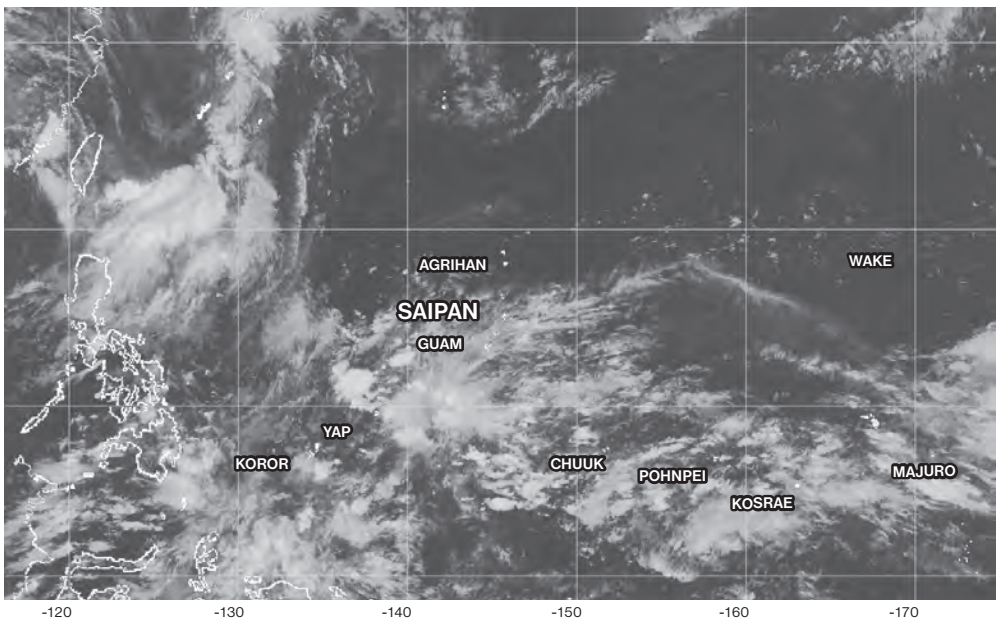
Paige Masten is a Charlotte-based opinion writer and member of the Charlotte Observer Editorial Board.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.
86° 76°	88° 79°	87° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers are seen again this morning across the Marianas, with an occasional brief thunderstorm, as the latest in a series of weak trade-wind troughs moves through. Trade-winds remain moderate, and seas are generally between 4 and 5 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:51 AM	10:41 PM	-
Tuesday	10:41 AM	11:17 PM	-
Wednesday	11:30 AM	11:54 PM	-
Thursday	12:20 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:31 AM	1:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Miami	Showers	80° / 72°
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Busan	Sunny	46° / 32°
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37° / 21°
Tokyo	Cloudy	46° / 37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:31 AM	Low Tide	1.40
9:50 AM	High Tide	1.80
5:12 PM	Low Tide	0.20

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

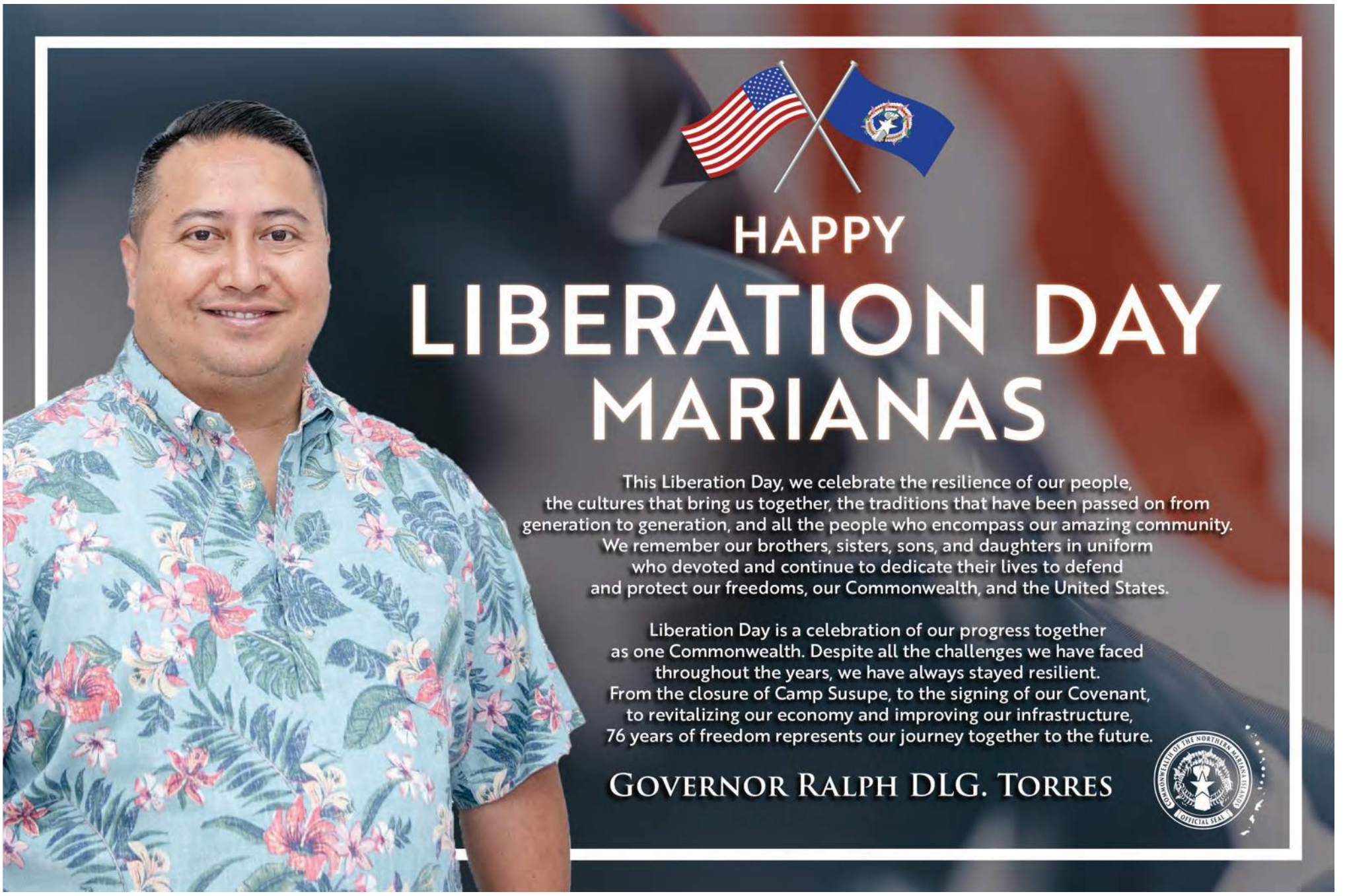
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily


HAPPY
LIBERATION DAY
MARIANAS
This Liberation Day, we celebrate the resilience of our people,
the cultures that bring us together, the traditions that have been passed on from
generation to generation, and all the people who encompass our amazing community.
We remember our brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters in uniform
who devoted and continue to dedicate their lives to defend
and protect our freedoms, our Commonwealth, and the United States.
Liberation Day is a celebration of our progress together
as one Commonwealth. Despite all the challenges we have faced
throughout the years, we have always stayed resilient.
From the closure of Camp Susupe, to the signing of our Covenant,
to revitalizing our economy and improving our infrastructure,
76 years of freedom represents our journey together to the future.
GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES

Let us pledge to be carriers
of compassion and love, and join forces
with the genuine spirit of our nation.
Happy 4th of July
50
One Beat. One Team. One Vision.
Tan Holdings
Anniversary
Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Compact negotiations between US, FSM continues in SF

A U.S. government team led by Ambassador Joseph Yun met in San Francisco this week with a team from the Federated States of Micronesia led by chief negotiator Leo A. Falcam Jr., to continue negotiations on economic assistance, federal programs, and other matters related to the Compact of Free Association and subsidiary agreements between the United States and the FSM.

"The candid and quality discussions that we have shared with the Federated States of Micronesia team assures me that the special and unique ties between our two nations are indeed enduring," said Yun, who is the special presidential envoy for compact negotiations. "The United States' priority remains to complete our negotiations that are mutually beneficial and satisfactory, and in as timely a manner as possible."

Yun

"Our FSM team remains grateful for our continuing collaborative work with our U.S. partners, and I am encouraged by the open and frank nature of our discussions. Although a significant amount of work remains in our deliberations, I am confident that our common interests and goals will enable us to complete an agreement that is mutually beneficial and reflective of our unique and special relationship," said Falcam.

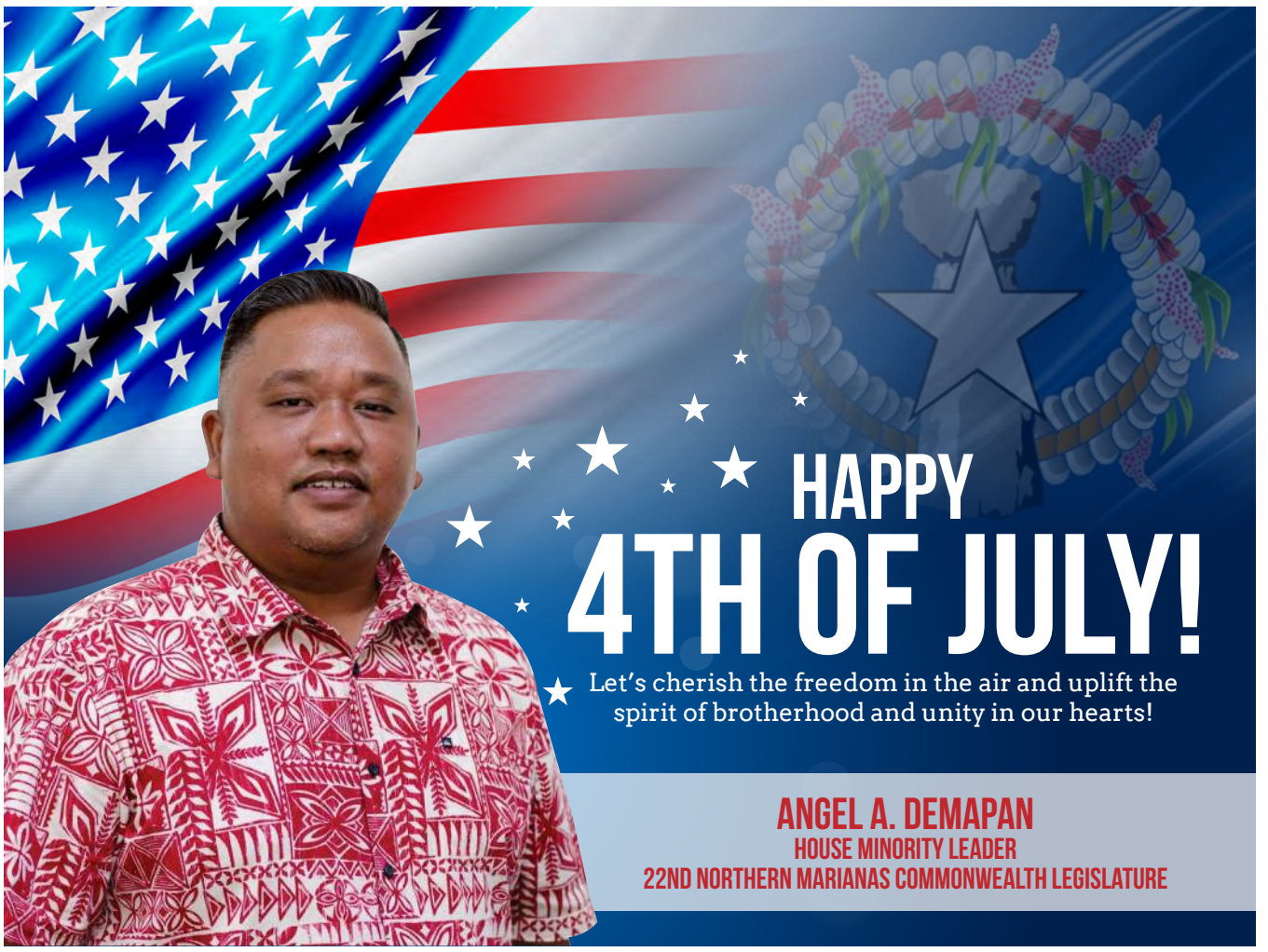
"Our bilateral discussions, both at the official and technical levels, continue to progress and advance and we remain optimistic and hopeful that we can complete significant portions of the negotiations by this Fall," said Department of the Interior deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa.

This has been the third bilateral U.S.-FSM meeting under the Biden-Harris administration to discuss the Compact of Free Association and related subsidiary agreements between the United States and the FSM. The Compact of Free Association is key to the important and ongoing relationship between the United States and FSM.

The FSM Team, led by Falcam, includes Asterio R. Takesy, chairman of the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning, and JCRP members: vice speaker of the FSM Congress Esmond B. Moses, FSM Sen. Aren B. Palik, FSM Ambassador to the United States Akillino H. Susaia, and Gerson Jackson. FSM Secretary of Finance and Administration Eugene Amor and JCRP advisers and staff were also in attendance.

The United States team, led by Yun, includes U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor, Ambassador Karen B. Stewart, State Department staff, Department of Defense staff, and a team from the Department of the Interior led by Nakoa, exercising the delegated authority of the assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

Both sides plan to continue technical work and discussions in advance of the next formal round of negotiations scheduled to begin no later than August 2022, at a location to be determined. ***(DOI)***


HAPPY
4TH OF JULY!
Let's cherish the freedom in the air and uplift the spirit of brotherhood and unity in our hearts!
ANGEL A. DEMAPAN
HOUSE MINORITY LEADER
22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

May you enjoy this significant day among loved ones and celebrate our independence to the fullest!
Happy
4TH OF JULY
From the management and staff of
Shirley's
Home of the Best Fried Rice
shirleyscoffeeshopfanpage
@shirleys_saipan
shirleyscoffeeshop
Garapan: Tel: (670) 233-4519/20
Susupe: Tel: (670) 235-5379/80
Sun - Wed 6am - 10pm, Thurs - 6am - 2am, Fri - Sat - 24 hrs
6am - 10pm daily

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Uvalde schools' police chief resigns from City Council

The Uvalde school district's police chief has stepped down from his position in the City Council just weeks after being sworn in following allegations that he erred in his response to the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School that left 19 students and two teachers dead. Chief Pete Arredondo said in a letter dated Friday that he has decided to step down for the good of the city and "to minimize further distractions." He was elected to the council on May 7 and was sworn in on May 31, just a week after the massacre, in a closed-door ceremony. "The mayor, the city council, and the city staff must continue to move forward to unite our community once again," Arredondo said in his resignation, first reported by the Uvalde Leader-News. Arredondo has been on administrative leave from his school district position since June 22. ***(AP)***

Bodies of 3 missing kids, woman found in Minnesota lake

VADNAIS HEIGHTS, Minn. (AP)—The bodies of three young children and a woman believed to be their mother have been recovered from a Minnesota lake, and authorities say the deaths are being investigated as a triple murder-suicide. Meanwhile, the body of the children's father was found at a different location hours earlier. Names had not been released as of Saturday afternoon. The children, all under the age of 5, were two boys and a girl. The chain of events began Friday morning when the man's body was found at a mobile home park in the town of Maplewood, near Minneapolis. Police determined that the woman had left with the children, and a search began. Maplewood Police Lt. Joe Steiner said the woman's car was found near Vadnais Lake around 4 p.m. Friday. The shoes of the children were found on the shore.

Holiday getaway pushes US airport traffic to pandemic high

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—The Fourth of July holiday weekend is jamming U.S. airports with their biggest crowds since the pandemic began in 2020. About 2.49 million passengers went through security checkpoints at U.S. airports Friday, surpassing the previous pandemic-era record of 2.46 million reached earlier in the week, according to figures released Saturday by the Transportation Security Administration. The escalating numbers show leisure travelers aren't being deterred from flying by rising fares, the ongoing spread of COVID-19 or worries about recurring flight delays and cancellations. Friday's passenger volume marked a 13% increase from July 1 last year, which fell on the Thursday before Fourth of July. This year's number of passengers going through U.S. airports also eclipsed the 2.35 million screened at security checkpoints on the Friday before the Fourth of July in 2019, but that was nearly a week ahead of Independence Day.

Flamethrower used to torch Pan-African flag flying on pole

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—A person using a flamethrower set fire Saturday to a Pan-African flag flying on a pole outside the headquarters of the Uhuru Movement, a Black international socialist group based in Florida. Security video released by the group shows the driver of a white Honda sedan pulling up outside the group's St. Petersburg headquarters, removing a flamethrower from the trunk and shooting a tower of fire at the flag flying about 30 feet (9 meters) above the ground. The group says the man stopped when a worker inside the building yelled at him. The video shows him putting the flamethrower back in the trunk and then driving away. A photo supplied by the group shows the flag with a large hole. St. Petersburg police said they are investigating the fire and are working to identify a suspect.

DC police: 2 die when truck hits bicyclist, fireworks stand

WASHINGTON (AP)—A truck hit a bicyclist and careened into a fireworks stand Saturday evening at an intersection in northeast Washington, killing the bicyclist and a man working in the stand, police said. No other injuries were reported. The accident at the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE occurred about 5:30 p.m., the Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement. The adult male victims were pronounced dead at the scene. Assistant Police Chief Wilfredo Manlapaz said the driver of the truck apparently was suffering a medical emergency when the accident occurred and was being treated at a local hospital. The bicyclist was in the crosswalk when he was struck, Manlapaz said. A photograph posted online by the MPD showed a demolished stand amid scattered debris.

May our great nation continue to prosper.
Wishing everyone a joyous fourth of July!
HAPPY
LIBERATION DAY
From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and Staff

Happy Liberation Day
We are fortunate to enjoy this holiday without
fear because of our brave forefathers.
Let's honor their memory by sharing love and joy.
From the Management & Staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

FDA recommends updating your COVID booster shots for fall

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and MATTHEW PERRONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least some U.S. adults may get updated COVID-19 shots this fall, as government advisers voted Tuesday that it's time to tweak booster doses to better match the most recent virus variants.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration wrestled with how to modify doses now when there's no way to know how the rapidly mutating virus will evolve by fall—especially since people who get today's recommended boosters remain strongly protected against COVID-19's worst outcomes.

Ultimately the FDA panel voted 19-2 that COVID-19 boosters should contain some version of the super-contagious omicron variant, to be ready for an anticipated fall booster campaign.

"We are going to be behind the eight-ball if we wait longer," said one adviser, Dr. Mark Sawyer of the University of California, San Diego.

The FDA will have to decide the exact recipe, but expect a combination shot that adds protection against either omicron or some of its newer relatives to the original vaccine.

"None of us has a crystal ball" to know the next threatening variant, said FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks. But "we may at least bring the immune system closer to being able to respond to what's circulating" now rather than far older virus strains.

It's not clear who would be offered a tweaked booster—they might be urged only for older adults or those at high risk from the virus. But the FDA is expected to decide on the recipe change within days and then Pfizer and Moderna will have to seek authorization for the appropriately updated doses, time for health authorities to settle on a fall strategy.

Current COVID-19 vaccines have saved millions of lives globally. With a booster dose, those used in the U.S. retain strong protection against hospitalization and death but their ability to block infection dropped markedly when omicron appeared. And the omicron mutant that caused the winter surge has been replaced by its genetically distinct relatives. The two newest omicron cousins, called BA.4 and BA.5, together now make up half of U.S. cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer and Moderna already were brewing boosters that add protection to the first omicron mutant. Their combination shots, what scientists call "bivalent" vaccines, substantially boosted levels of antibodies capable of fighting that variant, more than simply giving another dose of today's vaccine.

AP

A health worker administers a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination clinic at the Keystone First Wellness Center in Chester, Pa., on Dec. 15, 2021.

Both companies found the tweaked shots also offered some cross-protection against those worrisome BA.4 and BA.5 mutants, too, but not nearly as much.

Many scientists favor the combination approach because it preserves the original vaccines' proven benefits, which include some cross-protection against other mutants that have cropped up during the pandemic.

The question facing FDA is the correct recipe change. Both companies said they'd have plenty of omicron-targeted combo shots by October but Moderna said switching to target omicron's newest relatives might delay its version another month.

Further complicating the decision is that only half of vaccinated Americans have received that all-important first booster. And while the CDC says protection against hospitalization has slipped some for older adults, a second booster that's recommended for people 50 and older seems to restore it. But only a quarter of those eligible for the additional booster have gotten one.

Marks said that by tweaking the shots, "we're hoping we can convince people to go get that booster to strengthen their immune response and help prevent another wave."

The logistics will be challenging. Many Americans haven't had their first vaccinations yet, including young children who just became eligible—and it's not clear whether tweaked boosters eventually might lead to a change in the primary vaccine. But the FDA's advisers said it's important to go ahead and study updated vaccine recipes in children, too.

And one more complexity: A third company, Novavax, is awaiting FDA authorization of a more traditional kind of COVID-19 vaccine, protein-based shots. Novavax argued Tuesday that a booster of its regular vaccine promises a good immune response against the new omicron mutants without a recipe change.

Advisers to the World Health Organization recently said omicron-tweaked shots would be most beneficial as a booster only, because they should increase the breadth of people's cross-protection against multiple variants.

"We don't want the world to lose confidence in vaccines that are currently available," said Dr. Kanta Subbarao, a virologist who chairs that WHO committee.

How do I know these unfamiliar brands of infant formula on store shelves are safe?

By STEVEN A. ABRAMS
American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Steven A. Abrams is a board-certified pediatrician and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the past chair of the AAP National Committee on Nutrition. For more information, go to HealthyChildren.org, the website for parents from the AAP.

Q: Why am I seeing brands of baby formula I've never heard of, and are they safe?

A: To help ease the national shortage of baby formula, the United States government is importing several brands that weren't previously sold here. If you see them in your grocery store or pharmacy, then they have been imported based on special regulations and review to make sure they meet safety and nutritional standards.

They are all brands widely used in Europe and Australia among other places with demonstrated safety.

Here are some other common questions that consumers have now:

How do these imported baby formulas compare to the brands I am used to seeing?

Many of the imported baby formulas will be very similar. But there are some that will be unique in the U.S. market, such as brands made from goat's milk protein. Some of the imported baby formulas are certified as organic; others are not. All should be labeled in English, though instructions for mixing them may use different standards of measurements, such as milliliters rather than ounces.

Are there any other differences in imported baby formulas?

There are several key differences to look for in these new imported formulas. First, you may see on the label "Stage 1" or "Stage 2." Stage 1 formulas are intended for babies in the first 6 months after birth, but generally can be used throughout the first year. Stage 2 formulas are meant for babies over 6 months of age.

Also, if you look at the labels, you may see some differences with typical American formulas. For example, the iron content is usually lower in imported formulas. This is because the rules in Europe and Australia for iron are different than in the U.S. However, there is plenty of iron in these formulas, and you do not need to use an iron supplement unless advised by your pediatrician.

Goat's milk baby formula? Is that OK for an infant?

Yes, European and other international authorities have thoroughly reviewed the nutritional content of goat's milk. They've found that, when adapted for baby formula, goat's milk protein supports normal growth and development in infants. Some people believe that it may be tolerated better than formula based on cow milk or soy protein, with less upset stomachs or allergic responses, but that's not certain. However, raw goat's milk, like raw cow's milk, is not safe to feed a baby.

How do I mix imported baby formulas?

As with all baby formulas, read the label closely and follow the instructions exactly unless advised otherwise by your pediatrician. Most countries tell you the amount of water to add in "mls," which means milliliters. If your baby bottles don't have ml scale markings, you may have to convert from ounces to milliliters.

Remember that 30 mls is one ounce. Some of the formulas will have you mix one scoop for each two ounces (60 mls) of water, while others will have you mix one scoop for each one ounce (30 ml) of water. Be sure to use the scoop that came with the container of baby formula you are using.

Also note that the imported baby formula's instructions may refer to the bottle's nipple as the "teat."

As prepared, the imported baby formulas will have about the same amount of calories per serving as the usual U.S. formulas. If you have any questions about preparing the imported baby formula, be sure to talk with your pediatrician. Too much or too little water used with powder or concentrate is dangerous for your baby.

Can I just import baby formula on my own?

Do not try to import yourself directly, because you can't be sure it meets U.S. safety standards. Rely on what has gone through the special government approval process. Contact your pediatrician if you are unsure if a formula has been properly imported.

How long will imported baby formulas be on the shelves in the U.S.?

The special program allowing these importations lasts until November 2022. However, it is not known if it will be extended. Also, some of these formulas may stay in the U.S. marketplace after that time if the FDA and the company agree to this based on usual FDA regulations.

Can I get these imported baby formulas with my WIC benefits?

Some, but not all, of these imported baby formulas are available to WIC clients, although this is determined by state. Check with your state WIC website or office.

Are any specialty baby formulas for infants with special needs being imported?

Yes, some of the baby formula being imported under FDA oversight are designed for highly allergic babies. Additional supplies of formulas designed for infants born prematurely are scheduled to be imported soon.

Life & Style

Ricky Martin faces restraining order in Puerto Rico

AP
Ricky Martin poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Elvis' at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, May 25, 2022.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A judge has issued a restraining order against Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin, police said Saturday.

The order was signed Friday, and authorities visited an upscale neighborhood in the north coastal town of Dorado where the singer lives to try to serve the order, police spokesman Axel Valencia told The Associated Press.

"Up until now, police haven't been able to find him," Valencia said.

Martin's publicist did not immediately return a message asking for comment.

It was not immediately known who requested the restraining order. Valencia said he could not provide further details because the order was filed under Puerto Rico's domestic violence law.

El Vocero, a Puerto Rico newspaper, said the order states that Martin and the other party dated for seven months. The report quotes the order as saying they broke up two months ago, but the petitioner says Martin did not accept the separation and has been seen loitering near the petitioner's house at least three times.

"The petitioner fears for his safety," El Vocero quoted the order as saying.

AP has not obtained a copy of the order.

Valencia said that the order prohibits Martin from contacting or calling the person who filed it and that a judge will later determine at a hearing whether the order should remain in place or be lifted. He added that usually orders are implemented for at least a month.

Valencia noted that the person who filed for the restraining order did not contact police, which would have involved prosecutors determining if there was enough evidence to file charges. Rather the request went straight to the court.

Man found at Taylor Swift properties faces stalking charges

NEW YORK (AP)—A 35-year-old New York man is facing trespassing and stalking charges after authorities said he entered two New York City residences linked to the famed singer-songwriter Taylor Swift.

Police say the suspect, who was arrested Friday, entered one of the residential buildings, located in the city's Tribeca neighborhood, on March 26. He walked "through an unlocked door and remained unlawfully" before fleeing on foot when security told him to leave, investigators said.

On June 12, the same man entered another residential building linked to Swift, located on the same street, and "made threats through the intercom toward a 32 year-old female," according to a spokesperson for the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information.

Swift, 32, has had prior issues with alleged stalkers. In 2018, police said a man broke into her Tribeca townhouse and took a nap. That same year, a Colorado man was arrested outside a Beverly Hills home owned by Swift with a knife, a rope and ammunition.

Mary J. Blige is next artist in Apple Music concert series

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary J. Blige's 2022 is going pretty well. Her new album landed in the top 10 of Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart, and she was featured at the Super Bowl halftime show. Now she's been tapped for a concert like no other.

Blige will host a one-night-only live performance to celebrate her life and music that will be available to stream exclusively on Apple Music in over 165 countries. The concert is set for July 27 at 10 p.m. EDT/7 p.m. PDT.

"The last year of my career in particular has been an exciting ride," Blige said in a statement. "It feels amazing to take this opportunity to celebrate, reflect and have an intimate night with my fans through this platform Apple Music is providing me."

Blige's Apple Music Live concert will be held at New York City's United Palace Theatre, in Manhattan's Washington Heights neighborhood. Fans in the greater New York region have the opportunity to register for free for a chance to be in the room when it happens.

Actress Lindsay Lohan celebrates birthday as married woman

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Lindsay Lohan is celebrating her 36th birthday on Saturday as a married woman.

The "Freaky Friday" star said she was the "luckiest woman in the world" in an Instagram post Friday that pictured her with financier Bader Shammas, who had been her fiance.

"I am stunned that you are my husband," Lohan said in the post, adding that "every woman should feel like this everyday."

The couple had announced their engagement last November. People magazine and Entertainment Tonight confirmed there had been a wedding, but no details were offered.

Lohan

While still single a few years ago, Lohan told Entertainment Tonight that she was looking for "a smart businessman" and someone who doesn't like the spotlight. Shammas' Instagram account is private.

The "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen" actress and sometimes singer has worked through some sobriety issues in recent years, and has recently filmed a romantic comedy that is due to be released on Netflix later this year.

Randy Bachman reunited with beloved stolen guitar

TOKYO (AP)—Canadian rock legend Randy Bachman's long search came to an end Friday when he was reunited in Tokyo with a cherished guitar 45 years after it was stolen from a Toronto hotel.

"My girlfriend is right there," said Bachman, 78, a former member of The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive, as the Gretsch guitar on which he wrote "American Woman" and other hits was handed to him by a Japanese musician who had bought it at a Tokyo store in 2014 without knowing its history.

He said all guitars are special, but the orange 1957 Gretsch 6120 Chet Atkins he bought as a teenager was exceptional. He worked at multiple jobs to save money to buy the $400 guitar, his first purchase of an expensive instrument, he said.

"It made my whole life. It was my hammer and a tool to write songs, make music and make money," Bachman told The Associated Press before the handover at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo.

Man's 'relationship status' dismay longtime girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I've been living with my boyfriend, "Dan," for 15 years. He has always worked, and he doesn't hit me. If he's mad he lets go easy and doesn't dwell on stuff. (I can't say the same about me.) Here's the issue: On his Facebook profile in the "relationship status" section, he states that he's "single." Other times he has used "open relationship" or "it's complicated." We've been together way too long for him to write something like that.

I love him, but I don't want a future of living with this from my man. I feel like I'm wasting precious years. Life goes by so fast. I'm thinking about leaving him. What does he mean by doing that? Can you advise me, Abby?

TAKEN IN GEORGIA

DEAR TAKEN: Please accept my sympathy. You have spent the last 15 years with someone who is commitment-phobic. When people post that they're in an open relationship, it means they are interested in exploring other relationships. If what you want is someone to marry, then you are right—if a little late—in thinking about leaving him. The odds that he will give you what you need are slim. Have an honest conversation with Dan about "where you are headed as a couple." If your visions don't match, move on.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are friendly with another couple our age. They are kind and generous and would do almost anything for us. They like to meet us for an occasional dinner. The problem is the husband feels compelled to put on a show in the restaurant, telling jokes and kidding with the waitstaff and patrons sitting around us. The wife talks almost constantly, and so does her husband, so it's hard to have a conversation with them. They take forever ordering and think nothing of holding up the table for hours.

We went out last night and I "hinted" that I'm uncomfortable with the unnecessary attention and would like us to be more low-key. The response was, "We like to have fun. It makes us happy, and people always thank us because we make their day." I think people just play along and secretly find them annoying.

I don't want to hurt their feelings, but I don't know what to say if they ask us out again. My husband feels the same as I do. Any suggestions?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: They may be nice people, but their compulsion to perform in public makes you uncomfortable. Added to that is your inability to talk with them on a meaningful level because they dominate the conversation. If you like them in private, under controlled conditions, invite them over. But politely decline their invitations to eat out.

DEAR READERS: I'm wishing you all a happy and healthy Fourth of July! Please drive carefully and celebrate safely.

LOVE, ABBY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

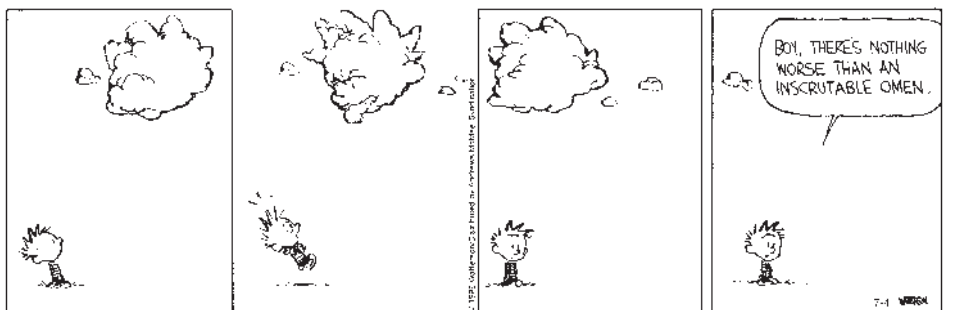
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

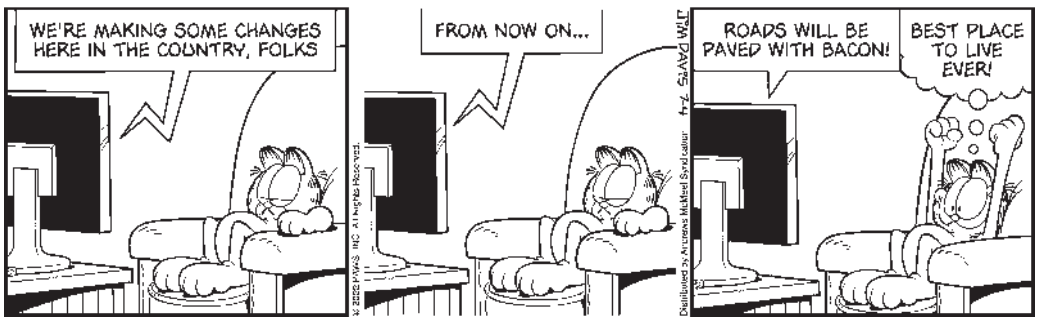
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

FOURTH OF JULY IS THE GREATEST!
POP
WHOOMP
THE FREEDOM! THE SPARKLERS!
THE BOOMS! THE POPS! THE EXPLOSIONS!
WAIT. WHERE'S GUMBO?
SHE'S CELEBRATING UNDER ABOUT THREE FEET OF LAUNDRY. AND I THINK I SAW HER GRAB MY EARMUFFS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THANKS FOR THE INVITE TO WATCH FIRE WORKS, GINA, BUT FANG GETS SPOOKED BY LOUD NOISES.
YEAH. WE'RE JUST GOING TO SCALE THINGS BACK A LITTLE THIS YEAR.
HURRY, ENO! I'M GOING TO POUR THE MILK ON THE RICE KRISPIES!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tax pro
4 Gun the engine
7 Profound
11 Pet food brand
13 Enjoy Vail
14 Doctrines
15 Lotion ingredient
16 — Talks (online lecture series)
17 Iso-
18 Media titan Winfrey
20 Brief moments
22 Barbecue seasoning
24 Texas city
28 July 4th destinations
32 Santa —
33 Foot part
34 Sailor
36 Avenue liners
37 Ceremonies
39 New Jersey capital
41 Wee
43 URL ending
44 Bleak
46 Crazy Horse, for one
50 Japanese volcano
53 Peace, to Caesar
55 Handle
56 Unsigned (Abbr.)
57 Before
58 "Baseball Tonight" channel
59 Curse
60 Melancholy
61 ID checker

DOWN
1 "Arrivederci!"
2 Insect organ
3 Cupid's specialty
4 Letters after Q
5 Squeezes (out)
6 YouTube offering
7 Feature of some trucks
8 Atty.'s title
9 Outback bird
10 Omega preceder
12 Google, for one
19 "Say what?"
21 Public health agcy.
23 Entreat
25 Bagel seasoning
26 Wrestling style
27 Grp.
28 Homer's son
29 New York canal
30 Part of a French play
31 Drunkard
35 Buddy
38 Old map letters
40 Hosp. sections
42 "Holy smokes!"
45 Kate of "The Martian"
47 Brewer's kiln
48 Diamond arbiters
49 TV's "Warrior Princess"
50 "Terrif!"
51 Italian article
52 TV bandleader Batiste
54 Deleted

Solution time: 26 mins.

P	I	Q	U	E		A	P	T		T	B	A
U	T	U	R	N		C	A	W		I	A	M
B	O	I	S	E		Q	U	I	B	B	L	E
		C	A	R	F	U	L		A	I	M	S
I	C	H		O	R	I		F	R	A	Y	S
V	E	E	P		A	T	W	A	R			
S	O	S	O	N		U	N	I	Q	U	E	
			P	A	C	F	R		F	U	R	O
T	I	B	E	T		S	T		I	L	E	
C	N	L	Y		C	A	I	B	O	X		
Q	U	I	E	T		Y		O	D	O	R	S
U	R	N		I	O	N		L	I	I	L	P
E	E	K		E	T	E		T	E	E	N	Y

Last Friday's Answer 07/4

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			
59				■	60			■		61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melanie Fiona, 39; Becki Newton, 44; Andrew Zimmern, 61; Geraldo Rivera, 79.

Happy Birthday: Make simplicity, moderation and kindness your priorities. Getting along with others will improve your popularity and support whatever goal you want to achieve. Look at whatever you want to pursue and weigh the pros and cons before setting your sights on reaching your expectations. A solid strategy and well-planned schedule will strengthen your chance to reach your destiny. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 29, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look inward and plan to make personal changes that will revitalize you spiritually, mentally and physically. Welcome a challenge. Use your wit and charm to show off your skills, attributes and ability to handle whatever comes along. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Inconsistency is the enemy. Look over your options, and choose to step forward instead of standing still. A friend or relative will offer a different perspective that gives insight into the best way to get ahead. Listen, assess and make your move. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Rethink your strategy before bringing up a sensitive issue with someone close to you. You'll gain ground if you use charm, integrity and a passionate plea for assistance. Do not ignore an opportunity that comes by surprise. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be subtle. Speak the truth without revealing personal feelings or information. A meaningful change will warm your heart. Focus on doing your best to make a difference. A unique solution you come up with will impress someone who can help. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An emotional situation will lead to beneficial change and financial opportunity. Embrace what comes your way by turning a lemon into lemonade. Personal growth, self-improvement and honing your persuasive technique will pay off. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An experience you have will be a blessing. Don't shy away from change when it can bring you closer to living life your way. Refuse to let an emotional scene cost you your reputation, position or status. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pick up the pace. Timing is everything. Finishing what you start will show onlookers that you are up for any task that comes your way. Be open regarding your expectations, and you will get valuable input that leads to financial gain. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Uncertainty will hold you back. Gather information to find out where you stand. Knowledge is an asset when dealing with money, health or contractual matters. Ask questions, get what you want in writing and change only what's necessary. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen, verify and keep your eye on the ball. Don't pass along information without proper backup. Work on improving partnerships. Focus your energy on something lucrative that you enjoy doing. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep a tally of how much you spend; set a budget for entertainment. A positive change at home will lift your spirits and improve your lifestyle. Your quick wit will keep you ahead of the competition. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* It's up to you to make things happen. Concentrate on your home, educational pursuits and expanding your interests. Adding new skills to your repertoire will help you feel enthusiastic about your potential. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A friend, relative or peer will misinterpret your words. Be a good listener, and refrain from offering information about your personal life, beliefs or long-term goals. Evaluate a joint venture before becoming too involved in something unfamiliar or unrealistic. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, colorful and innovative. You are quick-witted and persuasive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	4	3		9		
1	5				7		4	2
		7				1		
	7		8		5			9
2								1
5			1		9		6	
		6				4		
7	8		2				1	3
		9		5	6	2		

Difficulty Level ★ 7/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	2	6	9	7	1	3	5	4
9	5	7	3	4	8	1	6	2
1	3	4	6	5	2	8	9	7
4	9	8	1	6	3	7	2	5
2	6	3	5	9	7	4	8	1
7	1	5	2	8	4	6	3	9
3	8	1	4	2	9	5	7	6
6	4	2	7	3	5	9	1	8
5	7	9	8	1	6	2	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS Solution: 5 letters

A	E	N	O	I	T	A	U	D	A	R	G	N	S	A
E	D	D	A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T	A	U	E	S
E	G	M	U	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	E	N	H	S
V	R	E	I	C	F	C	O	S	O	H	H	I	C	I
I	E	N	L	N	A	S	K	N	A	R	P	T	N	G
S	E	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	E	N	E	A	N
S	N	E	P	V	O	S	I	D	A	E	L	D	R	M
E	I	C	D	R	I	C	T	O	M	S	F	U	B	E
R	G	A	T	R	E	P	X	E	N	O	O	W	S	N
G	N	F	F	A	T	S	G	O	R	F	I	V	E	T
O	E	R	D	E	E	A	I	C	M	A	R	I	N	E
R	Ⓗ	U	B	R	N	S	E	D	I	V	I	N	G	A
P	Ⓣ	S	V	A	S	S	S	L	E	V	E	L	F	M
Y	Ⓐ	E	M	I	N	E	C	N	A	N	D	R	O	S
C	Ⓞ	M	M	A	N	D	E	R	S	E	T	A	T	S

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Administer, Advisor, Aircraft, Assignment, Band, Branches, College, Commanders, Diving, Duty, Education, Engineer, Expert, Five, Forces, Fort, Four, Graduation, Lead, Levels, Management, Marine, Military, Missions, NATO, Oath, Operate, Ordnance, President, Progressive, Ranks, Senior, Serve, Ship, Staff, States, Surface, Swoon, Task, Teams, Three, United

Last Friday's Answer: Peroni

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Analysis: NBA teams going all-in, and that's what it takes

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP
Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant reacts during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, in Indianapolis.

The 2023 NBA playoffs are more than nine months away, and one thing is already clear.

There will be chaos.

The Minnesota Timberwolves grabbed a megaphone and announced that to the world when they traded multiple players and several first-round picks — one of them in 2029, which means that youngster is currently 12 and probably can't dunk yet — to the Utah Jazz for Rudy Gobert.

And with that, Minnesota is officially added to a list of legit Western Conference title contenders. There are solid arguments that can be made for no fewer than seven teams right now when debating who'll represent the West in this coming season's NBA Finals: defending champion Golden State, along with Phoenix, Dallas, the Los Angeles Clippers, Memphis, Denver and Minnesota are all on that list.

Remember, at least three of those teams won't get past the first round next spring. At least three.

But give the Timberwolves credit for what they did, because this is the way of the NBA world now. Organizations are either all-in or all-out.

Some team is about to send another massive package of players and picks to Brooklyn for Kevin Durant, unless the Nets somehow change his mind about wanting to be traded elsewhere. And that team — doesn't matter which one — will instantly see its title hopes soar even higher by adding perhaps the most unguardable player in the game today. Durant is owed nearly $200 million for the next four years, is about to enter his 15th season (not including one missed for injury), will turn 34 this fall and teams are still lining up to bet it all to get him in their uniform.

"The ones who were locked in that gym with me know what it is, they know what I'm about," Durant tweeted on Saturday, his first public comment since requesting a trade from the Nets. "If u haven't been in there with me, ask around."

Cryptic in some ways, clear in others. Durant wants more rings. In other words, somebody better go all-in.

That's what it takes.

Golden State spent somewhere around $340 million this past season on a championship-winning roster, about half of it in salary and the other half in luxury tax. Sure, the Warriors are deep-pocketed. But such is the price of doing business right now, especially in an NBA coming off a year where a record $8.9 billion in basketball related income was generated.

And the Timberwolves are the latest team to embrace that reality.

Gobert is owed $170 million over the next four seasons. Karl-Anthony Towns is owed $295 million over the next six seasons, after guaranteeing most of that in an extension that was struck a few hours before the Gobert trade happened. Anthony Edwards, a star in the making, is on pace for a massive rookie extension next summer. Minnesota, a team that hasn't won a playoff series since 2004, is swinging for the fences. New owner Alex Rodriguez, he of the 696 career home runs, must be proud.

Someone is going to get Durant. It's not reckless to think that Kyrie Irving could want a trade now as well, and if the Nets move Durant, they may as well move Irving instead of losing him for nothing next summer. Imagine Irving reuniting with LeBron James, this time with the Los Angeles Lakers, trying to recreate what they did in 2016 when Cleveland got to celebrate a title. If Irving goes there, add the Lakers to that list of legit West contenders, too.

New Orleans will have things to say about the playoff chase. So should Portland, assuming Damian Lillard is Damian Lillard again, and there's no reason to think that won't be the case. And who knows what Utah will be without Gobert, especially with speculation now surrounding whether the Jazz will choose to turn their roster remodeling into a complete teardown and trade Donovan Mitchell as well.

Keep in mind, moves are happening in the East, too.

Eastern Conference champion Boston significantly upgraded its depth by landing Malcolm Brogdon — another example of big spending, with $67.5 million and three years left on his deal — and Danilo Gallinari.

Miami, the No. 1 seed in the East playoffs this past season, is known to be in the Durant sweepstakes and Pat Riley is always, always, always looking for more stars. It wasn't a free-agent move, but Atlanta believes it got better by trading for Dejounte Murray to play alongside Trae Young. James Harden delivered his most significant assist as a 76er by opting out and giving Philadelphia the freedom to go get P.J. Tucker; Harden is now expected to sign a new deal in Philly, and that cements them as another contender. Milwaukee spent to keep Bobby Portis, meaning most of the title-winning-core around Giannis Antetokounmpo remains intact.

Signings can't even happen for a few more days. Training camps won't start until late September. The season doesn't start until mid-October. And then it's six more months until playoffs.

That's when the big, bold and best moves of this summer might pay off.

Agent: Williamson agrees to 5-year, $193M extension

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Zion Williamson's lost season to injury and unusual absence from the New Orleans Pelicans during his recovery didn't stop the club from betting big on their long-term future together.

The star forward agreed Saturday to a five-year, $193 million extension with New Orleans that has the potential to be worth as much as $231 million, Williamson's agent, Austin Brown, told The Associated Press.

Classified as a maximum rookie extension under the NBA's labor agreement, the deal sets the stage for the 6-foot-6, 280-pound, high-scoring power forward to give an All-Star caliber boost to a squad that recently proved it could make the playoffs without him.

ESPN first reported the agreement, also citing information provided by Brown, who is the co-director of CAA Sports' basketball division. The Pelicans have not yet announced the extension, which under NBA rules cannot be signed until July 6.

The move signifies a desire by the 2019 No. 1 overall draft choice out of Duke to see how much his return could help a squad that improved dramatically late last season and made a surprisingly competitive playoff showing.

It is also a show of faith by the Pelicans in the injury-plagued Williamson, who has played a total of 85 games in his first three NBA seasons — and missed all of last season with a foot injury.

This spring, the Pelicans won two Western Conference play-in games before taking top-seeded Phoenix to six games in the first round of the 2022 playoffs. They did so with a squad led by high-scoring wing Brandon Ingram, veteran guard CJ McCollum, center Jonas Valanciunas and a supporting cast of young players who blossomed under first-time NBA head coach Willie Green.

One season earlier, Williamson averaged a team-high 27 points and became a first-time All-Star during what was his lone NBA campaign that was not mostly or entirely wiped out by injuries.

Williamson played in just 24 games as a rookie because of a preseason right knee injury (lateral meniscus).

He played in 61 of 72 games in his second season. But he hurt his foot during the 2021 offseason while performing basketball drills with his stepfather, with whom he had previously entrusted his offseason training.

The Pelicans didn't reveal the injury until the first day of training camp in September, saying they hoped he'd be ready to play by the regular-season opener on Oct. 20. Williamson initially agreed with that timeline, which proved exceedingly optimistic. He wound up missing the entire regular season and playoffs.

Williamson also chose to spend a significant portion of the season away from New Orleans and the Pelicans. He chose to rehabilitate in Oregon, where his shoe sponsor, Nike, is based.

During that time, the Pelicans offered few updates on Williamson, any mention of whom was later conspicuously absent from Pelicans promotional material regarding season ticket renewals for the 2022-23 season.

No NBA player has declined a maximum extension of their rookie NBA contract, although the awkwardness between Williamson and the Pelicans led to speculation that Williamson might be the first.

But Williamson rejoined the team in March and appeared emotionally invested in its playoff run, routinely engaging in celebrations of triumphant moments near the bench.

And when the season ended, Williamson said if New Orleans offered a maximum extension, he "wouldn't be able to sign it fast enough."

"It was a different feel this year. You saw it on the court," said Williamson, who had a different coach in each of his first three NBA seasons. "We have a special group. I truly believe that."

In late May, several weeks after the Pelicans season had ended, the club announced that Williamson had been cleared to engage in basketball activities without restrictions.

With Williamson sidelined and Green a rookie head coach, the Pelicans started 1-12 last season. But they steadily climbed into contention for a Western Conference postseason berth.

They had begun improving even before acquiring McCollum from Portland two days before the NBA trade deadline. McCollum helped them rally to clinch a ninth overall seed and a home play-in game.

The Pelicans defeated 10th-seeded San Antonio. They then won a second play-in game over the Clippers in Los Angeles to advance to the first round of the playoffs against top-seeded Phoenix

New Orleans won twice in that series, which was tied at 2 games apiece before the Suns closed it out with consecutive victories.

Arenado hits 2 HRs, Cardinals power past Phillies 7-6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Nolan Arenado sparked a record barrage of four straight home runs by St. Louis in the first inning, then hit a tiebreaking drive in the ninth that sent the Cardinals over the Philadelphia Phillies 7-6 Saturday.

With two outs in the first, Arenado, Nolan Gorman, Juan Yepez and Dylan Carson homered off Kyle Gibson. It was the first time in major league history a team connected for four homers in a row in the first inning.

The Cardinals tied the MLB record for any inning with four in a row. It was the first time they had done it, and the 11th time overall in big league history.

It was 6-all when Arenado led off the ninth by clearing the wall in left field off Seranthony Domínguez (4-2) for his 17th home run. Arenando hit for the cycle on Friday in the Cardinals' 5-3 defeat to the Phillies.

Yairo Muñoz hit a two-run double, Matt Vierling had a pair of RBIs and Odúbel Herrera had three hits for the Phillies.

Cubs 3, Red Sox 1

In Chicago, Mark Leiter Jr. threw 5 1/3 solid innings of emergency relief, Nico Hoerner and Patrick Wisdom each had two hits and Chicago capitalized on a pair of Boston errors.

Four pitchers combined to limit the Red Sox to five hits as Chicago won for the fifth time in six games.

David Robertson got four outs for his 11th save in 14 opportunities. He gave up a double before striking out Rafael Devers and J.D. Martinez and worked around a walk, coaxing a fly out to end the game.

Dodgers 7, Padres 2

In Los Angeles, Freddie Freeman, Will Smith and Justin Turner homered during a seven-pitch span in the first inning, Tyler Anderson struck out six and Los Angeles continued its dominance of San Diego.

Freeman, Smith and Turner all connected for solo shots off Padres starter Yu Darvish (7-4). It was the third time this season they have had three homers in an inning.

Rangers 7, Mets 3

In New York, Kole Calhoun homered twice and drove in four runs, and Martín Pérez won his seventh straight decision as Texas beat New York.

Calhoun hit a three-run shot off spot starter Trevor Williams in the second inning and third-year catcher Jonah Heim followed with his career-high 11th home run to give the Rangers a 4-2 lead.

Starling Marte launched an early two-run homer and Eduardo Escobar also went deep against Pérez (7-2), who had given up only two long balls in 15 starts covering 93 1/3 innings coming in. But the 31-year-old lefty yielded nothing else, permitting seven hits and two walks with four strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings. He is 7-0 in his last 11 starts, making a strong bid for his first All-Star selection this month.

Twins 4, Orioles 3

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco hit a tying homer and Jose Miranda delivered a game-ending single as Minnesota again rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

A day after Byron Buxton hit a two-run homer in the ninth off Jorge López for a 3-2 victory, Minnesota came back once more. Polanco began the ninth with a home run against López (4-4) that made it 3-all. Alex Kirilloff doubled with one out, Gary Sánchez singled and Miranda followed with a single to win it.

Miranda entered the game in the top of the ninth at third base after Gio Urshela was pulled for a pinch-runner in the eighth.

Marlins 5, Nationals 3

In Washington, Jesús Aguilar hit a two-run home run in the first inning and scored in the seventh, Daniel Castano picked up his first win of the season and Miami continued its domination of Washington.

The Marlins have won 10 of 11 games against the Nationals in this season, but are 26-39 against everyone else.

Miami's latest win came in a sloppy game that included four throwing errors and a couple of wild pitches. Washington's Juan Soto also provided some holiday weekend fireworks with his 15th home run of the season.

Yankees 13, Guardians 4, 1st game; Yankees 6, Guardians 1, 2nd game

In Cleveland, Anthony Rizzo and Giancarlo Stanton blasted consecutive homers, Nestor Cortes shut Cleveland down for six innings and New York continued its torrid winning pace by completing a doubleheader sweep.

Matt Carpenter homered twice and Gerrit Cole brushed off giving up back-to-back home runs in New York's romp in the opener. The Yankees are 25-6 since May 31.

Cortes (7-3) allowed a homer in the first to Amed Rosario and little else. The left-hander gave up one run and three hits and struck out six, including

AP

St. Louis Cardinals' Nolan Arenado reacts after striking out during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Saturday, July 2, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Guardians star José Ramírez three times.

New York's bullpen took it from there, but it wasn't smooth. Michael King squirmed out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh and worked the eighth. Wandy Peralta also filled the bases in the ninth, forcing manager Aaron Boone to bring in closer Clay Holmes to get pinch-hitter Steven Kwan for the final out and his 15th save.

At 58-21, New York is not only running away with the AL East, but has the second-best record after 79 games of any team in 93 years. Only the 1998 Yankees (59-20) were better, and this version is so far step for step with those World Series champions.

Rizzo and Stanton homered in the fourth off Aaron Civale (2-5), who held the Yankees without a hit the first time through their order. Rizzo and Stanton connected for two-out homers in the fourth, with Rizzo's shot going 409 feet and Stanton's 432.

Tigers 4, Royals 3

In Detroit, Victor Reyes and Riley Greene hit back-to-back homers in the ninth inning to lift Detroit.

With one out in the ninth, Reyes tied the game off Royals reliever Joel Payamps (2-2). It was the first homer allowed by Payamps in 26 1/3 innings this season. Greene followed with the first homer of his career.

Tigers reliever Joe Jimenez (3-0) pitched a perfect ninth and earned the win as Detroit's pitchers retired the last 17 batters they faced.

Mariners 2, Athletics 1

In Seattle, pinch-hitter Justin Upton homered to tie it in the eighth inning and Abraham Toro singled home the winning run in the ninth to lift Seattle.

The Mariners loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth when Lou Trivino (1-6) walked Eugenio Suarez, Carlos Santana singled and Cal Raleigh reached on shortstop Nick Allen's error.

Toro then singled home pinch-runner Marcus Wilson for the victory.

White Sox 5, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Gavin Sheets doubled twice and drove in two runs, and Chicago held on to beat San Francisco.

Dylan Cease allowed one run in five innings for his third consecutive win. The major league leader in strikeouts per nine innings, Cease (7-3) had only four against San Francisco — his fewest since May 24 — and overcame LaMonte Wade Jr.'s home run leading off the first to improve to 4-1 in seven road starts.

Tanner Banks followed Cease with two scoreless innings. Joe Kelly retired three hitters and Kendall Graveman pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Tim Anderson added two hits for Chicago. Yoán Moncada and Leury García each drove in runs as the White Sox beat the Giants for the 10th time in 12 games.

Braves 4, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Spencer Strider allowed one hit over six innings and matched a career high with 11 strikeouts, and Austin Riley homered for the second straight game and drove in two runs to lead Atlanta.

Strider (4-2) didn't allow a hit until there were two outs in the fifth inning when Nick Senzel's single drove in Matt Reynolds, who entered the game when Kyle Farmer was hit by a pitch.

A.J. Minter pitched the seventh and Jesse Chavez the eighth before Will Smith pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Rockies 11, Diamondbacks 7

In Denver, Brendan Rodgers homered, Connor Joe had a three-run triple and Colorado overcame a two-homer game by Arizona's Christian Walker.

Kris Bryant had three hits and an RBI, C.J. Cron added a pair of RBI singles and Charlie Blackmon added a two-run double for the Rockies.

Ketel Marte homered, singled and drove in two runs, pinch-hitter Daulton Varsho hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning off Jhoulys Chacin, and Jordan Luplow added a pair of hits and an RBI for the Diamondbacks.

Trailing 7-2 going into the top of the sixth inning, the Diamondbacks scored three runs to cut their deficit to two runs. Luplow had an RBI single and Marte homered with two outs before Walker hit his second homer of the game and 21st of the season.

Astros 9, Angels 1

In Houston, Martín Maldonado homered twice and Jose Altuve, Kyle Tucker and Chas McCormick added a home run each as Houston built a big lead early and didn't let up.

The Astros followed up their 8-1 win in the opener with another lopsided victory to extend their winning streak to five games.

Houston starter José Urquidy (7-3) yielded two hits and a run with eight strikeouts in six innings to improve the team's starters to 7-0 in the last nine games.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 2, 1st game; Rays 11, Blue Jays 5, 2nd game

In Toronto, Francisco Mejía homered twice, Isaac Paredes had three hits and five RBIs, and Tampa Bay swept a doubleheader.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a solo blast for his 19th home run and Bradley Zimmer added a two-run homer in the second game, but couldn't keep Toronto from getting swept at home for the first time in five doubleheaders.

Left-hander Shane McClanahan (9-3) shut down the Blue Jays in the opener, allowing one run and three hits over seven innings and lowering his AL-leading ERA to 1.74. That win snapped the Rays' season-high four-game losing streak.

Toronto right-hander Kevin Gausman left Game 1 after he was hit in the right ankle by a 100 mph line drive off the bat of Wander Franco in the second inning. While X-rays were negative, the Blue Jays said Gausman had a right ankle contusion and that his status for his next start is uncertain.

Casey Lawrence (0-1), who joined the Blue Jays as the 27th man Saturday, replaced Gausman in the third and allowed six runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings.

In Game 2, Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo and first base coach Mark Budzinski both left the dugout in the third inning after a brief huddle with the coaching staff. Bench coach John Schneider replaced Montoyo and bullpen catcher Luis Hurtado coached first. No explanation was given for the absences.

All nine Rays starters had at least one hit in Game 1. Tampa Bay finished with 13 hits in Game 1 and had 14 in Game 2.

Pirates 7, Brewers 4

In Pittsburgh, Oneil Cruz got his 12th RBI in 13 games this season to help Pittsburgh bounce back from a blowout loss.

The 23-year-old prospect put the Pirates up 4-1 with two outs in the fourth on a 392-foot solo blast to right with a 112.3 mph exit velocity that chased Brewers starter Aaron Ashby (1-6).

It was Cruz's third homer of the year. He has at least one RBI in eight games since being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis on June 20, and at least one in each of his first nine games at PNC Park.

Belau master's softball league starts next Sunday

MARK RABAGO

Softball action returns when the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Annual Master's League kicks off this Sunday, July 10, at the Dandan softball field.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Softball fever is on and fans are in for a treat this Sunday, July 10, as it is the start of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Annual Master's League at the Dandan softball field.

The league will be held for six to seven months and has a total of six teams for the women and 10 teams for men. It will be held every Sunday.

The women's teams participating in the league have no age requirements and are the 670 Babes, Manny Sablan, Kosebakl, Hotshots, Team Eagles, and the Tokáhåo Ladies.

Participating in the men's masters league, whose players should be 40 years old and over, are the Salty Boys, Tokàhão, Man Amigos, Momma Charo, Hagu Lamun, Asahi, Team Sufa, Team Ngaraard, Aimeliik, and the defending champions Team Peleliu.

In last year's league, Team Peleliu defeated Man Amigos in a best-of-three championship.

Belau Amateur Softball Association president Leo Bobai told Saipan Tribune that the first, second, and third place winners will be awarded trophies, and a trophy will also be awarded to the homerun champion, batting champion, and for the pitcher with the most strikeouts.

BASA vice president Macqueen Masaharu invites the public to watch and support the league. The "2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association opening day is July 10, 2022! We thank all the teams that will play this season. A big shout out to our sponsor Budweiser! We're excited to get this league rolling and invite the public to come and watch these awesome teams play."

For more information, the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Annual Master's League contact Macqueen Masaharu at (670) 286-6225 or Leo Bobai at (670) 285-3426.

TORRES

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July 7th and that will also be the time when we'll be giving all the awards to all our athletes [who medaled]," he said.

Aside from confirming that all medalists will get the $1,000 bonus, Torres also took time to thank all athletes that represented the CNMI in the 11th staging of the quadrennial event.

"I want to personally congratulate the winners. All the medalist and all the other athletes that represented the CMMI—they are the best of who we have. They carry our flag and that itself is priceless because you do it from the bottom of your heart. The hard work that you put into competing. I was very happy to work with the [Northern Marianas Sports Association] and the organizing committee to give an incentive to all of our athletes to give them that extra push."

Torres also extended his thanks to the hardworking Mini Games Organizing Committee, led by chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, for the CNMI's successful hosting of the Games that drew a lot of praises with no less than Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan saying that the Commonwealth "raised the bar" in terms of hosting.

"…because together we are stronger. We all worked together and we put our athletes together, put our resources, put our hearts together. Imagine, this from a 40,000 population and we ranked third in most medals in the Games out of 19 island -nations," he said.

Torres also thanked the Mini Games sponsors, volunteers, and the CNMI community (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) who welcomed all the athletes from the 19 participating island-nations to the Games.

SWIMMERS

From Page 20

tion] ratification, both Juhn's times would qualify as new national and 17-18 age group records," he said.

Akimaru, the first NMI swimmer to take to the blocks in the Duna arena, started the team off with a great 50m butterfly, missing breaking the 15-16 age group record by a hair in 27.8. He also swam the 50m freestyle in 26.02

Batallones, the youngest member of the delegation, swam a very solid 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:26.01 and improved on her performance a few days later with a better 50m breaststroke.

In fact, Sikkel said Batallones' 50m breaststroke bests Jennifer Pierce's record from 1997 in the 13-14 age group by 400s of a second, setting the new time at 37.77 for the first time in 25 years.

Thompson, the last swimmer to dive into the Hungarian water, swam a good 100m freestyle, according to the national coach. She swam the event in 1.10.31 and completed the 50m freestyle in 31.36.

"Jinie and Taiyo both vastly improved on their times in the 50m free events in which they saw action a few days later," said Sikkel.

Aside for the individual events, Team NMI also competed in the mixed medley relay beating out neighboring team Guam by clocking a new NMI record of 4:37.91. Tenorio, Batallones, Akimaru, and Thompson again bagged a new CNMI record in the 4x100m freestyle with a time of 4:12.95. Both records are pending NMISF ratification.

Sikkel said it wasn't all work in the pool though for the CNMI National Swimming Team, as their stint in the 2022 FINA World Championship also included some sightseeing in the Hungarian capital.

"While swimming was the main purpose of the trip, the team managed to spend some time sightseeing around Budapest with coach Ally [Pourmonir], meet up with the other Oceania swimmers and officials, and share a lunch with FINA president Husain Al-Musallam and Ian Thorpe," he said.

For Tenorio, presumably setting new age group and national records were already bonuses considering that just representing the CNMI in the World Championship and seeing world-class swimmers in the flesh was already a great honor.

"I recorded an age group record and my first national record! It was an amazing feeling watching my idols race right in front of me. I got to see how they prepare for their races and overcome the immense pressure," he said.

Akimaru said it was really an amazing experience to take part in the World Championship in Budapest.

"I am grateful for being able to represent CNMI for the competition! This made me more into swimming! I was able to get PBs for both of my events. Looking at my swimming idols in TV and face-to-face is really different. They look a lot more bigger and faster face-to-face. I was happy to see many fast swimmers in the competition and I really think it was a great experience going to the World Championships," he said.

Batallones, for her part, said the whole World Championship experience was all that she expected.

"I got to make a really strong bond with my team and we were able to meet other people from around the world. I really thank them (my team) for always being there for me. Even when we were at Budapest, training before the race, they helped prepare me. They helped me so much that I was able to update my PBs and get CNMI record for the 50m breaststroke.

Like Tenorio and Akimaru, she also got a kick from seeing the international swimmers she always looked up to.

"It was so cool seeing swimming idols. Usually, we would just watch them online, but watching them live was even better. We would be stretching or preparing for practice and an idol would just walk past us. Those, I will always remember and it will always amaze me. Hopefully in the future we get more opportunities like this because it was such a great experience and I would love to go back," she said.

Thompson, meanwhile, said the World Championships served as a very big learning experience for her.

"I never previously competed in a World Championships before. Being surrounded by top athletes from around the world and seeing my idols was extremely special. I got the opportunity to take a quick picture with Katie Ledecky which was who I wanted to see the most. All my races were my personal best times. But I'm looking forward to breaking these times and I am committed to training toward whatever event we have in the near future," she said.

ANDREW

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Andrew had nothing but praises for them.

"Both men's and women's teams exceeded my expectations. They performed their best and recorded some of the best Team NMI times I have ever seen during our practices."

Joshua Andrew, a paddler on the NMI men's team, shared his father's sentiments and said, "I think overall we did great! We all knew the level of competition that was coming to the CNMI so we did all we could to prepare. For many of us, it was either their first time competing at this level so we'll be more motivated next time we compete against the South Pacific teams."

The NMI men's and women's national *va'a* team competed in the V12, V6, and V1 category events which covered various distances. The women's V12 team was awarded the bronze medal in the first va'a race after Papua New Guinea was disqualified due to a start fault and for finishing outside their designated race lane.

"It's an unfortunate situation for the teams that got disqualified. No one wants to be in that situation but I'm glad both parties understood that they were in the wrong and accepted the DQ. Our ladies got the bronze by a hair and I'm sure they all know what level they're up against in the future Games," said Joshua when asked about the women's team being awarded the bronze medal.

Despite not placing in other race categories, Justin was asked what the future holds for the NMI's best paddlers and he said they will only go up from here.

"We have a very young team. The sport of outrigger is developing and will continue to develop and our national team paddlers will only get better. For what's next, we have accomplished an amazing competition, now we will regroup, and focus on local events that we can use as preparations for upcoming regional events."

He further said that training never stops for them.

"Small local events are also training and just being active on the canoe is training already. We know that there are big events next year in the Marshall Islands for the Micronesian Games and the Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands, so these two big regional games will be what we will work for using our small local events to prepare and to assemble the next national va'a team."

Justin then thanked everyone for a successful va'a competition and for the CNMI's successful hosting of the Mini Games.

"I want to thank all the athletes and coaches and officials who traveled miles to come and compete with us. They only make us better athletes for sharing their experience and showcasing their talents on the competition course and sharing their stories during their stay. I also want to thank all the local volunteers and those who traveled here to help us run a smooth event. Our va'a event would not have been possible without the amazing volunteers."

Finally, he thanked the local Mini Games Organizing Committee. "I thank them for all the support in ensuring a successful va'a event and an amazing experience for the entire Team NMI PMG delegation!! We now know we can host high level events like this… we look forward to future events and hosting."

The 14-person NMI men's team that competed in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 were Carter Calma, Joshua Andrew, Timothy Asaivao, Rodney Camacho, Michael Fleming III, William Grow II, Maverick Itibus, Ketson Kabiriel, James Lee, Benusto Olopai, Jose Quan, Richard Salas, Jovano Taitano, and Jason Tarkong.

The women's team included Kaya Rasa, Vinalynn Oronigo, and Maiyah Duenas, Victoria Aldan, Heather Calderwood, Danica Calvo, Rica Concepcion, Erryne Dasalla, Jenisha Dubrall, Gerlyn Libunao, Elaine Sablan, Sharleen Sablan, Teresa Sablan, and Elizabeth Tenorio.

Va'a had the second most entries for the Mini Games after athletics. New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and the CNMI have the most paddlers with 28 apiece, followed by Guam with 24, Wallis & Futuna with 20, Tahiti with eight, Fiji with six, Norfolk Island with three, Cook Islands with two, and Palau with one.

Analysis: NBA teams going all-in, and that's what it takes

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Swimmers return with flying colors

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI National Swimming Team for the 2022 FINA World Championships returned from Budapest, Hungary last week with national coach Richard Sikkel congratulating Juhn Tenorio, Maria Batallones, Taiyu Akimaru, and Jinie Thompson for swimming their bests times in the international meet with Tenorio and Batallones also breaking a couple of records.

"I am pleased with the results of Team NMI at the World Championships in Budapest. Swimming alongside the likes of Caeleb Dressel, Katie Ledecky, Sarah Sjostrom, Kristof Milak, David Popovici, and Daiya Seto is equally inspiring as it is intimidating. In the midst of the enormous spectacle of the World Championships the four CNMI swimmers swam personal bests in each of their individual events."

Having just joined the team from training in Japan, Sikkel said Tenorio managed to improve on his personal bests in the 50m and 100m backstroke with times of 1:00.93 50 and 28.18, respectively.

» Tenorio shatters age group, national records
» Batallones, Team NMI also break records

"Pending [Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federa-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Taiyu Akimaru, Maria Batallones, Jinie Thompson, and Juhn Tenorio pose for a group photo during the 2022 FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Torres: All medalist to get $1K bonus

By MARK RABAGO
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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said on top of the incentives for winning gold, silver, and bronze medals in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, all Team NMI athletes who medaled will get a $1,000 bonus.

"We want to make sure that everyone is given the right amount. Again, a gold medal is $5,000, a silver I believe is $2,500, and then $1,000 for bronze. So, all the medalist will also get a $1,000 bonus from me," he said after last Saturday's press conference announcing the return of United Airlines' Narita-Saipan flights at the Aqua Resort Club.

Torres added that coaches of athletes who medal will also be taken cared of. "The coaches we do have incentive but we will announce that on

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks during the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last June 17 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Andrew: *Va'a* teams exceeded expectations

By LEIGH GASES
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The outrigger canoe or *va'a* competition was one of the most exciting sports to watch during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, with the world's best Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Wallis & Futuna flying through the waters off the 13 Fishermen Memorial beach.

The fact that both the men's and women's CNMI National Outrigger Team never wavered in their pursuit of the top teams in the Games, their coach Justin

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NMPMG2022/GRACE CHOI

The CNMI National Outrigger Team men's and women's team challenged the world's best during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.